

Malaysia rejects 4-hour TV
KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia's Tuesday rejection of a 4-hour television broadcast of the 1994 World Cup soccer final between the United States and Brazil was a setback for the country's efforts to attract foreign investment, officials here said. The move was seen as a sign of the government's determination to protect its television industry from foreign competition. The U.S. soccer team was scheduled to play Brazil in the final match of the tournament, which was held in the United States.

Indonesia denies condom campaign
JAKARTA (R) — An Indonesian minister denied allegations that the government had launched a condom campaign to promote safe sex. The minister said that the government was not involved in such a campaign and that the allegations were unfounded.

U.S. dollar rises here; no fault of dinar
AMMAN — The American dollar shot up in the local market by more than one percent on Wednesday as the greenback rallied internationally as a result of a combined Japanese-American-German effort to bring down the value of the yen.

Armed Forces helicopter crashes
AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian Armed Forces helicopter crashed Wednesday during a training flight. Its two pilots were injured and are receiving treatment at the King Hussein Medical Centre, an Armed Forces spokesman said. The helicopter, which was on a training mission, suddenly crashed, causing its two pilots to suffer injuries and were carried to the King Hussein Medical Centre for treatment. Their condition was described as good. There was no word as to where the crash occurred.

Water need not cause conflict — U.S. expert
STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Water supplies need not be a source of conflict in the Middle East if they are properly managed and distributed, according to an American researcher heading a study on the region's water resources. "Water will always be available at a reasonable price. And if it is managed properly there will be no problem with supplies for the next 30 years," said Franklin Fisher, who is in Stockholm for the four-day international water symposium. Mr. Fisher's statements are based on the results of a project led by Harvard University along with Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian researchers. "We can't see that there needs to be a water crisis either for private citizens or for industrial use," he said. He emphasized that a better distribution system was needed, not more water. "However, it may be hard to meet agricultural irrigation needs if new water works are not built," he said, adding that a water crisis could be averted "by building sewage treatment plants and recycling cities' sewage water in agriculture."

No courtesy calls on PLO in Jerusalem — Israel
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel voiced Wednesday opposition even to "courtesy" calls on Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem after Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister Mona Sahlin called off a planned visit. Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan told reporters that the government was against diplomatic activity by the Palestinians at the Orient House. He was speaking after talks with Sweden's Ambassador Carl Magnus Hyllennius following the cancellation of the trip by Ms. Sahlin. "Even courtesy visits to the Orient House have a political character these days," Mr. Dayan said. In Stockholm, Ms. Sahlin announced she refused to be a "pawn" in the dispute over Jerusalem and that her visit was cancelled.

U.S. detains ship in Gulf
DUBAI (R) — The U.S. Navy has intercepted a vessel in the Gulf carrying diesel fuel and is investigating whether the cargo came from Iraq in violation of United Nations sanctions against Baghdad, a navy spokesman said on Wednesday. The spokesman said the St. Vincent-Flagged Fair Sky was carrying 3,500 tonnes of diesel fuel. "The ship is temporarily diverted pending further investigation. It came out of Shatt Al Arab waterway. We boarded it and found it did not have any paperwork. They claim to have come from (the Iranian port of) Abadan," he said. It was the first interception since May by the U.S. Navy, enforcing U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait in 1990. Since last October it has diverted 14 vessels violating the sanctions. Of the 14, nine carried oil and the rest dates.

Arbange-eating bears invade Canadian town
ENORA, Ontario (R) — Dozens of garbage-eating bears are roaming the streets of this northern Ontario town in what officials say is the busiest ever year for sightings. Police say the bears are not dangerous and are not a threat to humans. "I think this is the first year on record," said a police spokesman. "It's bound to happen. It's the number of bears that are getting out of the garbage." The town of Enora has a population of about 10,000 people. The bears are black bears and are not dangerous to humans. They are attracted to the garbage in the town's dumps. The bears are not a threat to humans and are not dangerous.

Israel to pursue 'special' interrogations

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government agreed Wednesday to allow the internal security agency Shin Bet to use extra force when questioning Palestinian suspects for another two months, official sources said. A ministerial committee which oversees the agency, chaired by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, gave the green light to go beyond the application of "moderate physical pressure" which has been officially endorsed since 1987. Shin Bet interrogators were first given the additional powers after Islamic fundamentalists blew up a bus killing 22 people in Tel Aviv last October. However, it has not been revealed how far they can go. "Moderate" pressure has not been officially defined in public. Human rights groups accused the Shin Bet of systematic torture of Palestinians even before the rules were relaxed. "This authorisation is totally illegal under Israeli law, which bans torture, and certainly under international law," said Izhar Beer, chairman of Israel's leading human rights group B'tselem. "No other Western country gives carte blanche to torture even when faced with a bomb campaign such as Britain in Northern Ireland," he said.

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Israeli-Arab panel meets on 'displaced'

GAZA CITY (AFP) — An Israeli-Arab committee on Palestinians displaced during the 1967 Middle East war opened talks in Gaza City on Wednesday, officials said. The Egyptian-Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian technical committee, set up under the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy, was to meet for two days in Gaza. "We will focus on the definition of 'displaced persons' and their number," Palestinian delegation chief Zuhdi Saeed said. "We will not discuss compensation because the only solution to the problem is the repatriation to the country where they were born," he added. Israel is talking about 200,000 people while the United Nations estimates that 350,000 were displaced. The Palestinian National Authority says the numbers have swelled to nearly 1.5 million people with all their dependents. The panel has held three previous sessions: at Amman in March, at Beersheba, Israel, in June, and in Cairo last month. The negotiations, which have bogged down over the definition of a displaced person, are to continue monthly.

King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah receive Kabariti

Foreign minister delivers message from King Hussein, upbeat on Saudi-Jordanian relations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JEDDAH — King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday received Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who delivered to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein in the first highest level contact between the two monarchs since August 1990 and the most tangible sign yet of Jordanian-Saudi reconciliation after five years of strain.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, said the message dealt with "bilateral relations and means to improve them." It did not elaborate.

Expected to be reviewed during the meeting were Jordanian-Saudi relations and means to restore them to pre-Gulf crisis levels as well as the latest developments in the region, including the dramatic defection of a high-ranking Iraqi official and son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. However, officials from both sides said Mr. Kabariti's visit here was arranged prior to the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's minister of industry, and his brother Saddam Kamel Hassan, a senior army officer, along with their wives, both of whom daughters of President Saddam, and that the visit was not related to the defection.

The officials noted that Mr. Kabariti had visited Saudi Arabia and held talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal on July 15.

It is expected that the current visit would lead to a summit meeting between King Hussein and King Fahd. The Saudi Foreign Ministry is also expected to announce an ambassador to Jordan to fill the post that has been vacant since 1991, when Saudi-Jordanian relations were strained as a result of conflicting positions adopted during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Earlier in the day, Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, who is also first deputy prime minister, received Mr. Kabariti and discussed bilateral relations. It was also the first time in five years that Prince Abdullah had met with a senior Jordanian official.

Petra said that during the meeting, attended by Prince Saud and Jordanian Ambassador Hani Khalifeh, Mr. Kabariti conveyed to Prince Abdullah greetings from King Hussein. Discussed during the meeting were "the latest developments at the Arab and international levels and Saudi-Jordanian relations," Petra said.

Mr. Kabariti, who arrived here on Tuesday in his second visit to Saudi Arabia in a month, held overnight talks with Prince Saud "in a brotherly atmosphere," Petra reported.

"The two sides reaffirmed their keenness on continuing political dialogue over various issues of common interest," Petra said. "They agreed to exert efforts towards restoring pan-Arab solidarity and unity."

Addressing the press, Mr. Kabariti noted that Jordan and Saudi Arabia had traditionally maintained strong ties and cooperation in various fields.

"Strong Saudi-Jordanian relations form a nucleus for solid relations and for a pan-Arab and regional strategy that would help the Arab World staff off danger and deal with the various challenges and development," said Mr. Kabariti.

(Continued on page 7)

Jordanian and Iraqi officials deny Saddam wife is visiting

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian government and Iraqi embassy officials on Wednesday denied reports that the wife of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was visiting Amman in a bid to meet her two daughters who defected to Jordan last week.

"The report is not true," said an official spokesman. "The wife of the president of Iraq is not visiting Jordan."

A spokesman for the Iraqi embassy also denied the reports and said he had "no information that the president's wife was or is coming to Jordan."

According to earlier reports, Sajida Saddam Hussein, in her mid-50s, arrived in Amman on Tuesday and was staying at the residence of the Iraqi ambassador, Ibrahim Nouri Al Wais. Other rumours had it that President Saddam's sister as well as his mother were also in town in a bid to convince the president's two daughters to return to Iraq or at least to meet them.

The two daughters, Raghad and Rana, who are married to brothers Hussein Kamel Hassan and Saddam Kamel Hassan respectively, came to Amman on Aug. 8 along with their husbands and children. Their entourage included army officers and soldiers, among them a cousin of the Hassans, Major Izzeddine Mohammad Hassan, and his family.

Hussein Kamel Hassan, who served as Iraq's minister of industry, and Saddam Kamel Hassan, head of the Iraqi presidential guards, their families and all others with them were granted asylum in Jordan by His Majesty King Hussein.

Uday Hussein, President Saddam's eldest son, rushed to Amman close on their heels and sought their return home. But Jordan turned down their demand saying it could not hand over the defectors since they were in Jordanian territory by their own choice, and Uday's sisters refused to meet with him.

Sajida Saddam Hussein hails from the Khairallah family. She married Saddam Hussein in 1963 and borne him two boys, Uday and Qusai, and three girls, Raghad and Rana as well as Hala.

President Saddam married for a second time in 1988. His second wife is Samira Shahbandar, who used to work for Iraqi Airways. He was reported to have married a third wife, variously identified as nuclear/solar scientist Haifa or Nidal. There has been no confirmation of the third marriage.

Sajida is the sister of Adnan Khairallah, a defence minister who died in a 1989 helicopter crash.

Hussein Kamel told reporters on Saturday he described the defection plan to his wife, Raghad, President Saddam's eldest daughter, 10 days in advance.

U.S. dollar rises here; no fault of dinar

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The American dollar shot up in the local market by more than one percent on Wednesday as the greenback rallied internationally as a result of a combined Japanese-American-German effort to bring down the value of the yen.

The dollar was traded at Amman exchange houses at 715/717 fils to 720/723 fils on Wednesday up from 708/710 fils on Tuesday, commercial banks traded the dollar at the 713/715 fils — as set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) — plus their commission, making the net price almost the same as the private exchange houses.

The CBJ set rate for the dollar on Tuesday was 706/708 fils.

Slipping in the market were to German mark, which dropped overnight to around 480 fils from 590 fils, and the sterling pound shed about 10 fils to trade at JD1.1/1.102.

The CBJ rate — the benchmark for all foreign currency dealings in Jordan with slight margins for moneychangers — for the German currency was 479/481 fils, compared with 489/492 fils on Tuesday.

The drop in the value of the sterling in exchange houses came despite the almost steady rate set overnight by the CBJ at 1.1065/1.112.

Moneychangers and banking officials said the rise of the exchange value of the dollar in the local market was only a natural outcome of the strengthening of the currency in the international market.

They noted that the dollar could rise further as Japan sought to level off its currency at the 100-yen-to-a-dollar mark.

At the same time, the expected further rise in the dollar could also cause "unwanted and unfounded" headaches for local authorities on a different level, bankers said.

"One of the main problems we have here is local sentiment, which jumps every time there is a significant movement in the exchange market," said a banking executive. "Given the flourishing rumour mill in town, most people fear the dinar is going to be devalued."

Obviously mindful of the sentiment and trend, CBJ

Croats mass to push back Serbs pounding Dubrovnik

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Croatian troops could soon launch an incursion into southern Bosnia to push back Bosnian Serb forces which have been shelling the town of Dubrovnik, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

Two elite, battle-hardened Croatian army brigades were in the region as of Wednesday, providing what one U.N. source described as "the piece that was missing to launch an offensive."

Over the weekend and into this week, Serb gunners on hillsides 30 kilometres away in the Trebinje area of southern Bosnia fired round after round of artillery shells at Dubrovnik, an historic Adriatic coast city.

U.N. officials said they feared Croatia, fresh from victory over Serb secessionists in the Krajina region, would launch an offensive to drive the Bosnian Serb artillery out of range of Dubrovnik.

"The U.N. is increasingly concerned about a Croatian offensive which we assess



JUMPING TO QUEUE: Palestinian workers jump over a wall at the Erez checkpoint between the Gaza Strip and Israel to renew their permit cards to Israel. Thousands have to renew the cards after the Israeli army offered the change to "magnetic cards" in a move the army described as a security measure (AFP photo)

Baghdad pledges to cooperate with U.N.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq pledged Wednesday to cooperate with the U.N. disarmament commission "within limits" after inviting its chairman here to receive weapons secrets it said were withheld by a defector.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament, was expected in Baghdad on Thursday for his second visit in two weeks, U.N. officials said.

"The Iraqi leadership has decided to cooperate in the highest degree with UNSCOM within limits which do not harm Iraq's sovereignty and its territorial integrity," the ruling Baath Party newspaper, Al Thawra, said.

Baghdad has in the past invoked its "sovereignty" when it refused to comply with U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Ekeus said Tuesday that Baghdad had made a "positive change" by showing it was ready to reveal everything about its secret weapons programmes and that recent developments could help end the embargo.

The U.N. Security Council, which meets every two months to review the sanctions, was due to meet again in September.

Defence Minister Sultan Hashem Ahmad said Wednesday that Iraq's warplanes and air defences have been prepared for possible "threats," amid a U.S. military building in the region.

"The air force and anti-aircraft units successfully

conducted mobilisation exercises" on Monday and Tuesday to "meet eventual threats," General Ahmad said in a telegram to President Saddam.

The Iraqi exercises, dubbed "Call of the Commander" of the armed forces, "took place, precisely and successfully," according to the telegram which was published in the official press.

A U.S. Defence Department spokesman said in Washington on Tuesday that the United States had increased its military presence in the Middle East to protect Jordan after it granted asylum to Gen. Hassan.

Kuwait, which was occupied by Iraq in 1990-1991, said Wednesday it had taken precautions along its northern desert border and had discussed defence preparations with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

The Al Iraq newspaper asked why Washington had beefed up its forces in the region.

"All what happened is that a minister fled and chose the side of the traitors and enemies. It's a normal event that happens in a lot of countries," the newspaper said.

"Is it worth the trouble for the U.S. president to threaten Iraq and put (U.S.) troops on a state of alert," it added.

"The American administration must understand that the revolution led by Saddam Hussein is destined for eternity."

(Continued on page 7)

Croats mass to push back Serbs pounding Dubrovnik

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"The U.N. is increasingly concerned about a Croatian offensive which we assess

with renewed frequency from nearby Serb-held Bosnia since Croatia last week crushed the four-year rebellion by Serbs in its Krajina region.

The Bosnian Serb army says any shelling of the Dubrovnik area has been a response to Croatian artillery and infantry assaults on the Trebinje region in Serb-held Bosnia.

U.N. sources said a Croatian army brigade, which numbers 3,000-4,000 troops, had moved into Dubrovnik's hinterland facing Serbs in Bosnia less than 15 kilometres away.

Diplomats and U.N. officials expressed concern that a new war front could open up while U.S. envoys were touring the capitals of Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia with a new plan to try to bring peace to the war-shattered region.

Western diplomats said the U.S. plan for ex-Yugoslavia uses a mixture of threats and inducements to the warring

(Continued on page 7)

Iran: U.S. ban does not hurt

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Iran is forging ahead with oil sales despite a U.S. embargo, its foreign minister said Tuesday after signing a cooperation agreement with South Africa.

Iran is negotiating an oil storage deal with South Africa, raising concern in the United States. Washington imposed a trade and commerce ban on Iran on June 6, accusing Tehran of supporting international terrorism and trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

"There is no difficulty for selling oil after the announcement of the embargo by the United States," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters. The Middle East Economic Survey reported that Iran's crude oil sales were down just 2.3 per cent in July compared to June figures.

"I can tell you this is not the first failure they have had in their foreign policy," Mr. Velayati said. "They have to learn not to interfere with the internal affairs of other countries."

Earlier this month, the U.S. State Department publicly urged South Africa to "reconsider its cooperation with Iran." South African officials say links with Iran serve their interests and open channels of communication.

"South Africa stands to gain from this agreement, and I have South African interests at heart," Pik Botha, South Africa's minister of mineral and energy affairs, told reporters after meeting with Mr. Velayati last Tuesday to discuss their oil deal and possible future cooperation.

Joey Lucas, spokesman for U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, told the Associated Press that the disagreement would not affect generally strong U.S.-South African relations. Mr. O'Leary arrives Saturday as head of the largest U.S. trade mission ever to visit South Africa.

Iranian and South African sources said their oil storage deal was going through.

Under the deal, South Africa was to store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil in facilities South Africa had built to cope with anti-apartheid sanctions that hampered its ability to buy oil.

South Africa was to help Iran find buyers for the oil, and split the profits of any sales.

Mr. Velayati, who signed a cooperation agreement covering political, economic and cultural areas, said South Africa would be a bridge to the rest of Africa for Iran. In turn, Iran could be a conduit to Asia and the former Soviet Union for South Africa, he said.

"There are very good indications that both countries are determined to strengthen relations," Mr. Velayati said. "We're certainly disappointed that the South Africans saw fit to go forward with that contract," said State Department spokesman David Johnson.

He said the United States had made it clear that it wanted other countries to cooperate in its unilateral economic embargo against Iran, which Mr. Johnson called a "state dedicated to acquiring nuclear weapons and to undermining the peace process."

"We will continue to work with the South Africans and other friends to try to convince them of our point of view," Mr. Johnson said.

The oil deal comes as Iran and South Africa announced the establishment of a joint diplomatic commission, brushing aside United States concern over the expanding trade relationship between Pretoria and Tehran.

Mr. Velayati said the joint commission agreement would give Iran access to African markets in return for its support for South Africa's social upliftment programmes.

The Iranian official met Deputy President Frederik de Klerk on Tuesday and will also meet other members of the South African cabinet during his three-day visit.

Clinton suspends restrictions on U.S. relations with the PLO

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Clinton on Tuesday sent to the secretary of state presidential determination No. 95-36, suspending restrictions on U.S. relations with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) until Oct. 1, 1995.

Following is the text of the President Determination, as released by the White House: August 14, 1995

President Determination No. 95-36

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Suspending Restrictions on U.S. Relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1994, part E of title V, Foreign Relations Authorisation Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995, Public Law 103-236, as amended ("the Act"), I hereby:

1. Certify that it is in the national interest to suspend the application of the following provisions under law until October 1, 1995:

A) Section 307 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2227).

as it applies with respect to the Palestine Liberation Organisation or entities associated with it;

B) Section 114 of the Department of State Authorisation Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (22 U.S.C. 287e note), as it applies with respect to the Palestine Liberation Organisation or entities associated with it;

C) Section 1003 of the Foreign Relations Authorisation Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2502); and

D) Section 37, Bretton Woods Agreement Act (22 U.S.C. 286w), as it applies to the granting to the Palestine Liberation Organisation of observer status or other official status at any meeting sponsored by or associated with the International Monetary Fund.

2. Certify that the Palestine Liberation Organisation continues to abide by the commitments described in section 583(b) (4) of the Act.

You are authorised and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the Federal Register.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171



SUSPECTED KILLER: Jewish settler Zeev Liebskind is taken to court by policemen on Wednesday on charges of shooting dead a Palestinian during protests over land rights in the West Bank on Aug. 13 (AFT photo)

Carter calls for peace talks in Sudan

ATLANTA (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on Tuesday called for a new round of peace talks between the Sudanese government and rebel factions to preserve a fragile ceasefire agreement.

"I call on all Sudanese parties to halt immediately all military activity and respect the ceasefire," Mr. Carter said in a statement issued by the Atlanta-based Carter Centre.

The former president was able to broker a ceasefire in the country's civil war last March, so that the Carter Centre and other groups, including the World Health Organisation, could treat civilians for illnesses such as river blindness and guinea worm disease.

Mr. Carter said the Islamic government and its two rebel opponents — the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement Army (SPLMA) and the South Sudan Independence Movement Army (SSIMA) — accepted a late July invitation to attend peace talks hosted by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

Mr. Carter said lasting peace will only come if the parties involved address the fundamental issues that divide them.

"I hope these talks can be convened soon. The leaders of the Sudanese people should seize this opportunity to avoid further bloodshed... and end the great suffering caused by these 13 years of devastating conflict," said Mr. Carter.

Up to half a million people have died in the war. The initial ceasefire brokered by Carter ran until the end of May. But it was then extended until the end of July.

Mr. Carter said the government and rebel groups agreed last month to continue observing the ceasefire, so long as significant progress was made toward a lasting peace.

Each side has accused the other of breaking the ceasefire, but the Sudanese army's capture of the rebel town Kaya on Saturday was the first major offensive reported.

Turkish court releases Kurds; case continues

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish court on Wednesday released from detention a former Kurdish deputy and 15 others on trial for separatism because of a protest last month during a trial of officials from a pro-Kurdish party.

Sirri Sakik, a former deputy from the now-banned Democracy Party (DEP), and the other defendants face between two to five years if found guilty under article 8 of the anti-terror law, their lawyer told Reuters.

"What they are really being charged with is being Kurds," said lawyer Yusuf Alatas.

Article 8 is generally used against people who say or write something critical about Turkey's treatment of its Kurdish minority. Scores of writers and others are in prison under the controversial law that Ankara's Western allies want changed.

The 17 defendants — one was not detained — were part of a group of some 240 people detained on July 6 after they were blocked from attending the hearing of four officials from the People's Democracy Party (Hadeep).

Spectators left in the hallway broke into traditional Kurdish wailing while clapping and flashing the victory sign with their fingers.

Mr. Sakik, a former member of Hadeep's banned predecessor the Democracy Party (DEP), was released in December after nine months in jail for separatism.

Six other DEP parliamentarians are still in prison after being convicted of links to rebel Kurdish guerrillas.

Turkish law does not use the bail system and the courts have the option of detaining people while trials are ongoing.

7 officers in Iraq shutdown face end of career

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seven officers involved in the accidental shutdown of two U.S. army helicopters over Iraq last year are receiving administrative punishments that could mean an end to their air force careers, officials announced Tuesday.

"We are holding all involved accountable," General Ronald Fogleman, the air force chief of staff, said in a videotape to be viewed by all U.S. air force officers. The tape was shown at a Pentagon news conference announcing the disciplinary actions.

The seven officers — two F-15 pilots, three members of an air force radar command and control aircraft and two brigadier generals — are not being fired or accused of criminal acts.

The April 14, 1994, accident killed 26 people, including 15 Americans. The F-15 pilots, flying a routine mission to enforce a U.N. "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq, mistook the army Black Hawk helicopters for Iraqi Hind aircraft. Each fighter pilot shot down one chopper; no one aboard survived.

The punishments were announced Tuesday by Major General Nolan Skute, the staff judge advocate of the air force, the service's top legal officer. He said no additional disciplinary action is contemplated.

Gen. Fogleman said the two F-15 pilots — Lieutenant General Randy May and Captain Eric Wickson — are barred from flying duties for at least three years. That effectively ends their careers as air force fighter pilots, although they could remain in the service in other jobs.

Gen. Fogleman ordered that three members of the radar plane crew also be grounded for at least three years. Among them is Capt. Jim Wang, acquitted by a military jury in June of criminal charges.

Also grounded were Capt. Joseph Halcl and Lt. Ricky

Wilson, two other radar controllers aboard the AWACS plane, which never alerted the F-15 pilots that the U.S. helicopters were flying in the area.

In addition to the groundings, Gen. Fogleman wrote highly critical "letters of evaluation" on the two F-15 pilots, the three AWACS crewmen and two brigadier generals.

These letters are entered in the men's permanent personnel files and taken into consideration by promotion boards: in effect, it means the men are highly unlikely to be promoted again.

Generals receiving critical letters are Jeffrey S. Pilkington, commander from his headquarters in Incirlik, Turkey, of the air force operation in northern Iraq, and Curtis Emery II, who at the time of the shutdown was a colonel.

Gen. Fogleman decided to issue the letters of evaluation

after personally reviewing the seven men's performance reports and determining they "did not adequately meet the high standards of the air force," one official said.

All had been reprimanded in the shutdown, but the air force still came under strong criticism, particularly from family members of some of those killed in the shutdown, for not punishing those responsible sufficiently.

Col. Wang, who claimed he was being made a scapegoat for the mistakes of others, was the only officer tried criminally. After his acquittal, Deputy Defence Secretary John White last month ordered the air force to consider additional noncriminal punishments.

Mr. White set an Aug. 23 deadline for Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall to report the results. Mr. White received Gen. Fogleman's decision on the seven men last Friday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysian officials visit Iran for Bosnia talks

TEHRAN (AFP) — A high-level Malaysian military delegation arrived here Wednesday for talks with their Iranian counterparts on the Bosnia crisis, Iranian Radio said. The delegation, headed by the commander of the Malaysian armed forces, General Ismael Omar, is here on the third leg of a regional tour which also took it to Pakistan and Turkey, it said. Gen. Omar told reporters after arriving that he would discuss bilateral and regional issues, notably those related to the Islamic world, including Bosnia. Gen. Mohammad Bagher Zolghadri — the chief-of-staff of the Iranian elite force, the Revolutionary Guards — said Iran and Malaysia hoped to "find a concrete and effective solution" to the Bosnian conflict. Iranian officials said earlier this month that military experts from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group would meet in Tehran to discuss lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia. The meeting here would be followed, up soon by another session in Malaysia, they said.

Israeli students paint army tank pink

TEL AVIV (AP) — Students protesting militarism in Israeli society painted an army tank memorial bubble-gum pink. "I understand that there are other views, but this seems pretty ridiculous," said Arieh Keren, director of the armoured corps memorial, which brought in a crane Wednesday to remove the offending tank. "Of course these machines of war do not symbolise peace, but in a way they contributed to peace." The tank, a Soviet-built, Stalin-class tank captured from the Egyptians in the 1967 Middle East war, stood along the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. Avi Posen, a spokesman for the students, told the Associated Press the tank represented "the militarism and other grotesque periods in Israel's history. These were vehicles of slaughter and a symbol of the pursuit of militarism." The students included former commandos and reserve officers. Mr. Keren said that when he learned the tank had been painted pink, "I went there and put some flowers in the barrel."

Bombs explode in oil installations in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Two bombs exploded in oil installations in the petroleum-rich southwestern Iran causing extensive damage, a newspaper reported Wednesday. The "relatively powerful" devices, which went off on Saturday, were placed in oil pipelines running through Ahvaz, the main city of Khuzestan province bordering Iraq, the daily Iran said. There were no casualties. The daily blamed the attack on the main armed Iranian opposition group, the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq. It recalled that the Iraq-based group had claimed responsibility for a series of earlier bomb attacks against oil installations in Khuzestan province. The Mujahadeen said in June 1993 that their rebels had destroyed 11 pipelines in the region.

U.S. helicopter crashes off Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Police aircraft and boats pressed on Wednesday with the search for four U.S. crewmen missing after their helicopter crashed in the Mediterranean Sea, authorities said. A U.S. Navy ship and British Royal Air Force helicopter joined in the operation off the southern coast of this island, where the Black Hawk helicopter went down Tuesday night. Wreckage of the helicopter was found in the morning strewn over a large area of Ziyi Bay, 27 kilometres west of Larnaca airport, said a police official who spoke in exchange for anonymity. The Black Hawk was headed for the airport in tandem with another after taking off from the British air base at Akrotiri on Cyprus. It was scheduled to pick up supplies for the U.S. embassy in Beirut. The crash occurred as the U.S. Navy and Air Force staged joint exercises about 100 kilometres further south in the Mediterranean.

UAE researcher wants more local babies

ABU DHABI (AP) — A government researchers has reportedly recommended that local parents get financial incentives to have more babies in order to offset rising numbers of foreign and mixed-race children. This Gulf state, where eight of every 10 residents is an expatriate, is worried about its changing demographics brought about by its oil wealth and importation of foreign labour. "There is currently an imbalance between the number of nationals and expatriates," Abdullah Al Ahmed, a director at the UAE state audit department, said in a study reported by the local English-language newspaper, Gulf News. "We need to have more nationals... take a greater role in the large economic strides the country is achieving." A marriage fund, established a few years ago by the president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, to financially help national men meet high wedding costs, lends 70,000 dirhams (\$19,000) to the men who marry local women. Mr. Ahmed proposed that instead of having to pay back the sum in installments, the couples should be given an exemption of 20.

Turkish embassy reopens in Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — Turkey has reopened its embassy in Kabul after a lapse of two and a half years, officials said Wednesday. The Turkish embassy was evacuated in February 1993 because of the poor security situation amid intense factional fighting. "We feel that the security situation now is fine and we have therefore returned," said Turkish Charge d'Affaires Salih Sen, following the formal reopening of his mission Tuesday. Pakistan and India restored their embassies this year, while Iran and Indonesia never withdrew their missions. The diplomat underlined Turkey's neutrality, saying "we do not make any discrimination between different Afghan ethnic groups, have no favourites whatsoever and enjoy good relations with all of the parties."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:30 Irie-the Happy Professor
13:40 Noddy
14:00 Fireman Sam
14:15 My Secret Identity
14:30 The Alphabet Show
14:50 Dead Men's Tales
15:30 Take Your Pick
16:00 I Witness Video
17:00 Children's Programme — Rahan
17:30 Varieties and Game Show — Le
Modne Est A Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Portrait d'Alelu
Cavalier
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 National Geographic
The Alphabet Show
21:15 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature film: "L'Addition — The Bill"
22:59 Shogun

PRAYER TIMES

04:32 Fajr
(05:30) (Sunrise) Duha
12:40 Dhuhur
16:19 'Asr
19:24 Maghrib
20:47 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Switich, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 62785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Tormentum Church Tel. 623366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.

American Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

American International Church Tel. 623255.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 681195.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail during the weekend with temperatures north-western moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 18/31

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi 663412

Dr. Mazen Shawkat 630435

Dr. Abdul Raheem Mustafa 744685

Dr. Bassam Karadebeh 759200

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 783336

Al Asena pharmacy 671055

Nairoh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashneh 980023

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Fire Brigade 636140

Blood Bank 671001

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 605800

Petrol Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Amman Municipality 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 771111

Jordan Television 680100

Radio Jordan 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 843045

Al-Muhsin Hospital 662240/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marata 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/9

Amal Hospital 607155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)980560

The Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)989090

IBRD:

Princess Beqma Hospital (02)275555

05:15 Muscat (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00 Doha (OT)

13:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)

14:00 Riyadh (SV)

17:00 Rome (AZ)

18:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)

18:35 Cairo (MS)

21:00 Dubai (EK)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

22:20 Istanbul (TK)

Panel to improve jurisdiction over tourism investments in Aqaba—minister

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Amman — Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Khatib said Wednesday that the Higher Council on Tourism will meet in Aqaba today to look at improving the jurisdiction of tourism in the Red Sea resort area.

Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times that the existing jurisdiction over tourism in the area is "fragmented" and that the Higher Council on Tourism will meet today to discuss lifting the Aqaba is "fragmented" jurisdiction over tourism in the area.

On his visit with Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Khatib, he said he was very critical of the way in which travellers were being handled.

Mr. Khatib said travellers were being exposed to unnecessary suffering. He stressed that the process of transiting through the border needs to be simplified.

The aim, he said, is to eventually arrive at international standards.

Meanwhile, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday reported that the Tourism Department in Aqaba said that a total of 69,835 visitors had crossed into Jordan through the southern crossing point at Wadi Araba, near Aqaba, since it opened in August 1994.

The department said it expects a further flow of tourists through the crossing point in the autumn, winter and spring.

The Tourism Department also said it was carrying out improvements on tourist facilities.



Abdul Ilah Khatib

Turkish private sector to participate in MENA conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of a visiting Turkish economic and trade delegation, Asra Tatlil Oglu, told the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Wednesday that the Turkish private sector will take active part in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due to be held here in October.

The delegation members, who arrived in Amman Tuesday, said that Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller will most probably lead the official Turkish delegation to the conference.

JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabba'a said that the JBA was trying to ensure the widest possible participation in the coming conference by various countries and that the Jordanian private sector was spearheading preparations for the meeting.

Mr. Tabba'a also discussed with the Turkish delegation arrangements for a visit to Jordan by a Turkish business delegation in November and for a Jordanian businessmen delegation to visit Turkey next month.

The JBA is cooperating with Turkish businessmen through a Jordan-Turkey business council created in mid-1994 which Mr. Tabba'a said has encouraged increased trade relations between Jordan and Turkey.

Thabet Taher, head of the JBA's executive committee, Wednesday met Samir Abdullah, head of the Palestine Economists' Association, and discussed coordination between the Palestinian and Jordanian private business sectors for the October conference.

Mr. Taher said afterwards that the two sides agreed that a Palestinian businessmen delegation should visit Jordan in the next few days to discuss joint projects to be submitted to the MENA conference.

The JBA and the Palestinian businessmen last month created a Jordan-Palestine Business Council to promote trade relations in the wake of the first Jordanian-Palestinian businessmen's conference held in Amman in June.

Cabinet names delegation to U.N. General Assembly meeting

Amman (Petra) — The Council of Ministers, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Wednesday named Jordan's delegation to the U.N. General Assembly's forthcoming meeting in New York.

The delegation will be headed by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and will include Awn Khasawneh, legal advisor to His Majesty King Hussein and the government, Ibrahim Nabulsi and Omar Rifai of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, in addition to Jordan's standing U.N. delegation members.

The resignation of former U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh has left a vacancy in the Jordan mission to the world body.

The most likely replacement is said to be Ambassador Hassan Abu Niemeih who was most recently posted to Rome.

The U.N. General Assembly will convene for the first 13 days of October. The

same delegation will also attend the Non-Aligned Nations' foreign ministers meeting on October 13. The Cabinet also retired three ambassadors as of August 15.

They are Khaled Obeidat, Assem Qeishat, and Kamal Hissa who was serving in India.

Mutassem Bilbeisi, who was ambassador to Paris, has retired upon his own request, which was accepted by the Cabinet effective Sept. 1.



Abdul Karim Kabariti

German minister's visit to include talks on rescheduling Jordan's debts to Bonn

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — German Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Carl Dieter Spranger will visit Jordan next week for discussions on German assistance to Jordan and rescheduling of the Kingdom's debts to Bonn, a German embassy official said Wednesday.

Mr. Dieter's visit comes as a follow-up to talks German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had here in June when Jordan and Germany agreed to explore means to further economic cooperation and study means through which Bonn could help Amman.

Jordan owes Germany about \$500 million after Bonn extended debt relief of about \$50 million to the Kingdom last year.

One of the subjects touched during Chancellor Kohl's visit here was possibilities of offering further debt relief. However, no specific amounts or details were discussed since the chancellor talks here focused on political issues.

The highlight of Chancellor Kohl's visit was a tripartite summit he held with His Majesty King Hussein and

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at a hilltop in the Baqoura area in the north, territory that Israel returned to Jordan under the peace treaty that the two countries signed in October.

The summit was seen as a reaffirmation of Germany's support for the Middle East peace process and willingness to extend assistance to consolidate the peace accord reached between Jordan and Israel.

Mr. Dieter's visit to Jordan will be part of a tour of the Middle East. He begins the visit in Israel and is expected to hold talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and other Israeli officials.

On his way to Jordan on Aug. 23 for the four-day visit, Mr. Dieter is scheduled to make a stopover in the Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho and tour German-financed projects there and hold talks with senior officials of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), including President Yasser Arafat.

In Amman, His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker are scheduled to hold talks with Mr. Dieter, who

will be accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

Dr. Dieter will also hold talks with Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat.

Jordan and Israel have sought German financing for water projects included in the peace treaty. The total cost of the projects is estimated at \$535 million, but there has not been any discussion on specific figures with any party.

The European Union (EU), of which Germany is a member, is financing feasibility studies on the proposed projects with an 11 million European currency unit (ECUs) — about \$14 million.

EU diplomats have said that while there had been no definite commitment, the European bloc, along with other potential donors, will also consider financing for the projects after the studies, expected to be complete next year, formally establish their feasibility.

Germany, which contributes 28 per cent of the EU budget, has also indicated

that it will consider financing the projects, which include dams and diversion structures as well as a desalination plant.

On a bilateral level, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said after Mr. Kohl's visit that Jordan sought debt relief from Germany and that the chancellor suggested that the issue be followed up by the related ministers from the two sides.

As such, possibilities of German debt relief for Jordan is expected to be closely discussed during Mr. Dieter's visit here. Any decision reached is expected to be announced only after the German government formally approves the move.

In per capita terms, Jordan is the largest recipient of German aid.

While in Jordan, Mr. Dieter will also address a press conference on Thursday, Aug. 24.

He will also visit Petra, where Germany is financing projects to preserve monuments in the ancient Nabatean city.

Mr. Dieter leaves for Syria on Aug. 26, where he will stay for two days before returning home.

House discusses Khalifeh case, laws

(Continued from page 12)

The prime minister has said that the case would be handled by the higher court for criminal cases.

Asking for a specific and detailed reply from the minister on each question raised by every deputy, Deputy Basam Emoush said many queries over the case were left unanswered by the minister. The deputy added that the minister should reveal "who issued the order to shoot Mahmoud Awamleh, what was he accused of, and whether the police operation could have been carried out differently."

Awamleh's "problem was that he was a man of principle," Dr. Emoush said. "He wanted to speak his mind and say what was right and what was wrong regardless of who was involved" in his accusations.

"He was a religious person. He was not a fugitive," Dr. Emoush said. "On every letter he mailed or faxed, Mahmoud used to write his full name and address."

Is it reasonable that such barbaric action be taken against him?"

Dr. Emoush said that several deputies tried to visit Bashar in hospital but they were not allowed to see him.

Mr. Hamad said that all details will be provided to the House upon request through the judicial authority since the case is being handled by the attorney general.

"The history of the Kingdom testifies to the government's adherence to democracy and their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the people," the minister said. "Democracy in Jordan is an example for the whole region."

Mideast bank

(Continued from page 12)

Funds, an arrangement financed separately by the wealthier members to provide special concessionary loans.

The international task force, made up of representatives of 30 countries from within and outside the Middle East, has scheduled another meeting for Sept. 12-14 in Rome. At this meeting, task force members hope to refine the proposed bank's draft articles of agreement for endorsement at the Amman summit.

The Clinton administration, in the words of Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, is "intent on ensuring the Development Bank's financial soundness."

He added, however, a word of caution in a recent testimony before Congress.

NEWS IN BRIEF

between the two countries. Under the deal the two sides agreed to remove restrictions on flights and the type of aircraft used in transport operations. The memorandum was signed by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Ahmad Jweiber and the head of the Yemeni Civil Aviation Corporation in the presence of Yemen's ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Hassan Lawzi.

Romanian team meets with JBA head

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing small and medium-size economic and business organisations in Romania met here with Chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association Hamdi Tabba'a and said Romanian businessmen were willing to set up a Jordanian-Romanian business council. The head of the delegation, Mircea Mosora, said such a council would help stimulate trade between Romania and Jordan.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has decided to exempt vehicles with Saudi Arabian tags from entry fees at the Jordanian borders, according to an announcement by Minister of Transport Samir Kassar Wednesday. The minister said that the vehicles with Saudi licence plates will also be exempted from paying fines for failure to provide transit and travel documents. The minister said these exemptions, also applicable to vehicles from other Arab states, will remain valid as long as the other states observe a reciprocal treatment for Jordanian trucks.

AMMAN (Petra) — The civil aviation authorities of Yemen and Jordan Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of civil aviation and air transport.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

The Muppet Movie, at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

PLAYS

The Maids, (written by Jean Genet) starring Majid Qasas and Najwa Kondakji at the Royal Cultural Centre, Main Theatre on Thursday and Friday at 8:30 p.m.

Badranah, (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Oil paintings by Yassin Al Mohammadawi at Baladna Art Gallery.

* Abstract art by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uttheina.

* "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

* Exhibition demonstrating the developments of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

reopens in Kabul

has reopened its embassy in Kabul after a half year's closure. The embassy was evacuated in 1994 after a series of attacks on it by the Taliban. The embassy is now being run by a team of Jordanian and Pakistani staff. The Jordanian government is providing financial and technical assistance to the embassy. The embassy is expected to be fully operational by the end of the month.

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Taiwan: China started guided-missile tests

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan said on Wednesday China had started a new series of missile tests off the north of the island, adding that it was mulling whether to postpone its own military exercise planned for October.

The Defence Ministry was still evaluating whether to postpone the exercise, the state-funded Central News Agency quoted Defence Minister Chiang Chung-Ling as saying.

There have been calls for a postponement to avoid a further deterioration in the already severely strained ties with China.

"The (Hua Hsing) exercise will fire no shot and fire no bullet. It is a static exercise," Mr. Chiang was quoted as saying.

Taiwan has said it would hold the Hua Hsing exercise in southern Taiwan, described as a routine military inspection, before the Oct. 10 national day.

The Defence Ministry said on Wednesday that China's latest guided-missile tests had started on Tuesday.

"Communist planes and frigates had entered the testing area on the first day (Tuesday). They conducted sea and air exercises, including guided-missile tests and

artillery firing," the ministry said in a statement.

"It conducted air-to-sea, sea-to-air and sea-to-sea artillery firing exercises. In the military level, it does not constitute a direct threat," the statement said. It did not say how many missiles or shells China fired.

The closest exercise spot was 136 kilometres north of Taiwan's northern coast, the statement said.

The testing, due to last until Aug. 25, is the second series of missile tests north of Taiwan in less than a month. China's last missile tests, from July 21 to 26 in the sea north of Taiwan, and the new exercises have triggered widespread concern in Taiwan.

"This exercise this time is different from the last time. They have air and sea forces' joint combat exercises in addition to guided-missile tests and artillery firing," Mr. Chiang told journalists after the ruling Nationalist Party's weekly central standing committee meeting.

"The exercise zone is far away from here. It does not have a direct effect on us. We should not panic and please put your heart at ease," Mr. Chiang said.

China has regarded Taiwan

as a rebel province since the end of a Chinese civil war in 1949. Both governments say they want reunification, but on different terms.

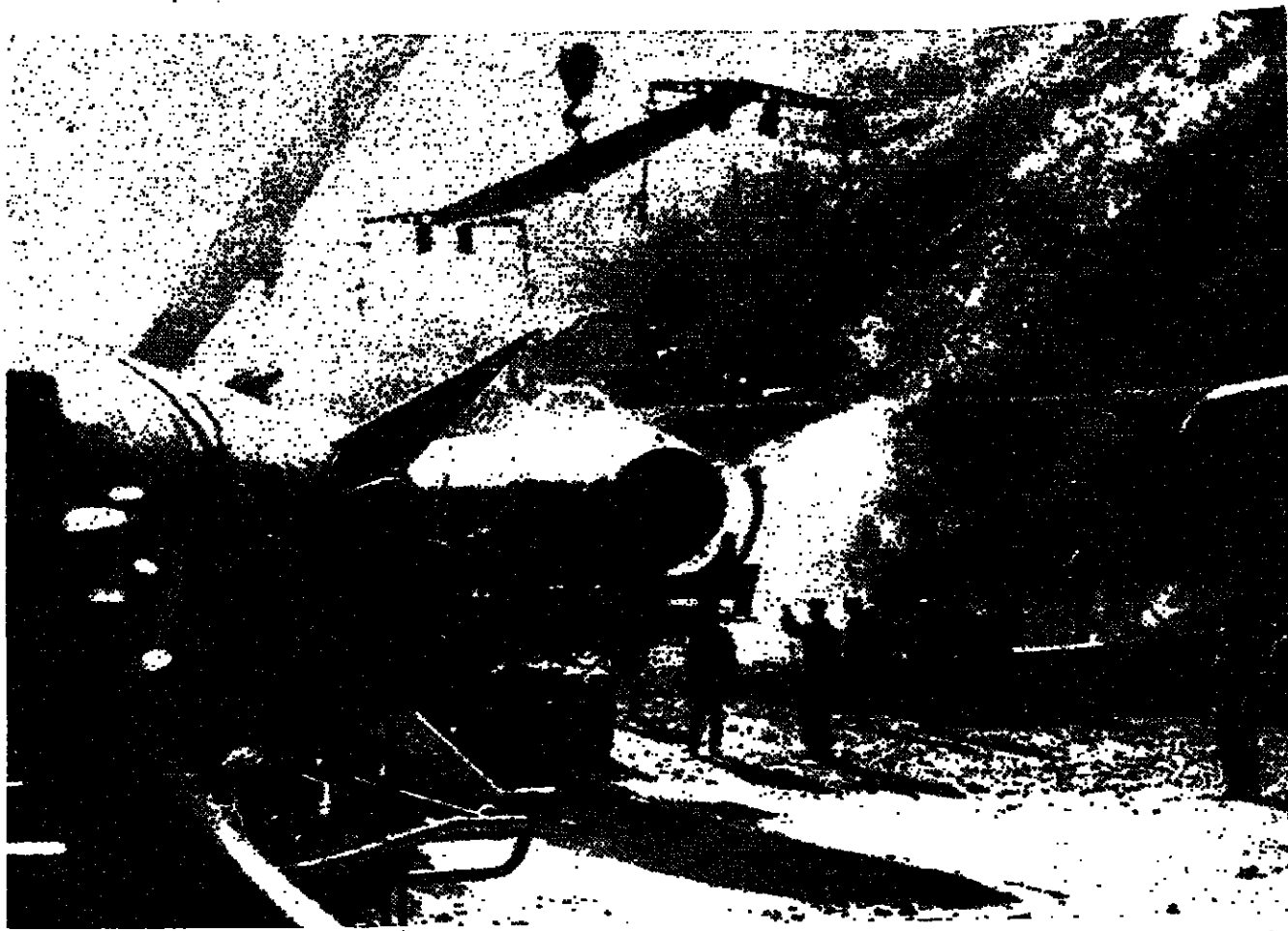
China has threatened to recover the territory if Taiwan declares independence, though the Taiwan government repeatedly says it does not play this.

Bilateral relations soured markedly after Taiwan President Lee Teng Hui's private visit to the United States in June, seen by Beijing as a move to advocate independence.

China's missile tests are seen as a warning to Taiwan to stop efforts to raise its world status, and Taipei officials have said China's aim was to create instability before Taiwan's first direct presidential elections next March, in which Mr. Lee is widely expected to run.

Prime Minister Lien Chan blasted China's latest tests last Saturday, saying they were unscrupulous and intimidating.

On Tuesday, Mr. Lien continued his protest and asked China to exercise self control, while Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien said Taiwan would ask Northeast Asian countries to condemn China over its latest missile tests.



Chinese soldiers handle long-range missiles in this recent file photo released by China News Service Aug. 15 (AFP photo)

France accused of 'betrayal' over 'barbaric' nuclear tests

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — Australia accused France of a "betrayal" Wednesday for its plan to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific next month.

And the Pacific island nation of Nauru, calling the test plan "barbaric," said it would break diplomatic relations with Paris if it went ahead with the Mururoa Atoll tests.

France was firmly in the dock here as South Pacific environment ministers met and expressed anger and disappointment at the French decision.

Australian Environment Minister John Faulkner wanted Paris held accountable for any environmental damage to the Pacific or the health of its people since it claimed that the testing was safe.

Prime Minister Paul Keating, one of the most vociferous critics of the French programme, said President Jacques Chirac's actions had created a sense of betrayal in the South Pacific.

"Betrayal by one of the current nuclear powers which had only recently pledged to exercise 'the utmost restraint' in testing, betrayal by a democracy, a betrayal of all hopes all of us felt with the end of the cold war..."

He said "we are opposed... to this single, bad decision, and we want to see it changed."

Nauru President Bernard Dowiyogo told the gathering his nation of 9,000 people was prepared to pay the diplomatic cost of a break with France. In an emotionally charged speech he said Mr. Chirac's decision was "barbaric and environmentally harmful."

Another tiny Pacific island nation, Tuvalu, a group of nine atolls north of Fiji, also lashed France. Deputy Premier Oinielu Tausi called on the world community to "cause France to stop the malicious and systematic destruction of the pillars of our very existence, the inheritance our forefathers handed

to us."

South American countries on the Pacific also plan to hold a ministerial meeting next month to consider joint opposition to the French tests, Chile's ambassador to Australia, Fernando Zegers Santa-Cruz said.

There was short-lived relief for France and some relief faces among the Australians when a top Australian scientist said the nuclear tests could not have a significant impact on the health of Pacific island peoples.

Professor Helen Garnet, director of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, told a media briefing that the amount of radioactivity underground was just one per cent of the amount of radioactivity created by atmospheric tests. "The impact on health and people in the Pacific is not likely to be significant," she said.

But her remarks elicited a swift "clarification" from Australia which said there had

been confusion between "health and environmental impacts."

They quoted from a Scientific Advisory Group report submitted to the meeting behind closed doors which said that the testing programme had had an "adverse environmental impact," notably physical damage to the atoll, including fissures, subsidence and submarine landslides.

It said leakage of radioactivity from Mururoa was highly probable. But it said the effects... "on the health of the population of Mururoa, nearby inhabited islands, and the population of French Polynesia, are uncertain. However the effects are likely to be small and limited to Mururoa and nearby island ecosystems."

Mr. Chirac, meanwhile, has written to national leaders in Asia, the Pacific and Latin America confirming his pledge to ban all nuclear tests, including small ones, from late next year.

China ejects Greenpeace anti-nuclear protesters

BEIJING (R) — China deported senior activists from the world environmental group Greenpeace Wednesday after they pulled off a brazen but brief protest in Tiananmen Square demanding that Beijing end nuclear testing.

The Greenpeace national directors from France and Russia, Penelope Komites and Sasha Knorre, were put aboard an Air France flight to Paris, airline officials said.

Four other activists detained for joining Tuesday's brief protest in Beijing's huge central square were put on an afternoon flight to Hong Kong, officials said.

Greenpeace activists interviewed by telephone before their deportation said two

contract photographers who were also detained, a German and a Swiss, faced expulsion. Their whereabouts were not immediately known.

Police and Foreign Ministry officials would not comment.

"Because we signed confessions saying this was our first action in China, they said they would not charge us but would immediately send us out of the country," Ms. Komites said.

"We had to confess that we held an illegal protest."

The protest was timed to coincide with Beijing's rumoured plans to hold a nuclear test in the next seven days and its announcement of missile tests off the east coast near Taiwan, which reported-

ly began on Tuesday.

Greenpeace activists fear nuclear testing by China and France could undermine moves toward a comprehensive test ban treaty. The other nuclear powers, the United States, Britain and Russia, have halted their testing programmes.

The activists' expulsion was likely to defuse a potentially embarrassing incident just weeks before Beijing hosts its biggest international gathering — the U.N. World Conference on Women — but also reinforced Beijing's firm stance against dissent.

Officials warned on Tuesday that China would not tolerate unauthorised protests by any of the tens of thousands of participants in the women's conference or a parallel forum of grassroots women's groups, whether Chinese or foreign.

Greenpeace international Executive Director Thilo Bode said the eight, who had entered China on tourist visas, were interrogated by police for much of Tuesday and moved to a hotel near Beijing airport late in the evening.

They remained under police guard overnight but said they were not mistreated.

Five Greenpeace leaders managed to unfurl a bright yellow protest banner in Tiananmen Square demanding that China halt its nuclear testing programme.

Within seconds, police ripped the banner down and detained the five and three colleagues.

Several Greenpeace activists slipped away and flew out of China and provided television and still images of the protest to international news agencies.

A traditional magnet for dissent, Tiananmen has seen few protests since June 1989, when the army crushed student-led pro-democracy demonstrations.

Also among those being deported were Ann Dingwall, a Canadian who represents Greenpeace in Britain, Bill Keller, an American who directs its U.S. West Coast office and Hans-Juergen Zundler, a German, who is a longtime Greenpeace leader.

Tigers kill 10 Tamil dissidents

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas have executed 10 Tamils opposed to their movement, which has launched an organised campaign to weed out suspected spies, travellers from the region said Wednesday.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) killed the 10 men from April onwards in their northern Jaffna peninsula stronghold and later informed the relatives of the victims, travellers said.

They said the LTTE had also launched a search for alleged spies who had tipped off Sri Lankan security forces about a major LTTE attack against a military complex in the island's northeast last month.

The LTTE's July 28 assault against the Welio Oya military facility ended in disaster with the rebels losing over 300 of their men and women fighters while the army lost only two men.

The Tigers blamed their failure on a "spy" tipping off the military and since then have been continuing a witch hunt in areas under the control in the island's north.

S. Korean police break up rally over Kawangju massacre

SEOUL (AFP) — Hundreds of riot police on Wednesday tear-gassed and swooped on a crowd of 5,000 radicals rallying here to press for the prosecution of former military generals-turned-presidents for the 1980 Kwangju massacre.

Several protesters were choked by tear-gas and fainted, while others were bleeding from cuts on their heads sustained by police truncheons, an AFP photographer on the scene said. Some 100 protesters were arrested.

The violent crackdown was an evident reaction to the savage beating with iron pipes that student radicals had inflicted on a squad of riot police Tuesday which left 60 police injured, 20 of them seriously.

Tuesday's student-police clashes were triggered by activists trying to symbolically march to the border with North Korea to attend a banned rally called by the North.

Wednesday's violence erupted when 600 riot police firing tear-gas moved into a rally at a public park to prevent a planned street march to the former president's homes.

The students tried to retaliate with metal pipes and stones, then took refuge on the grounds of nearby Dongguk University and battled sporadically with police at the campus entrance.

The police had earlier said they would allow Wednesday's rally at Changchung Park, and the subsequent street march but would arrest anyone using violence.

Led by a 3,000-member group with a mission to "arrest" Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, the students said they would try to storm the two residences following the protest rally.

The rally was jointly organised by human rights activists and students to press for the prosecution of former Presidents Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo, accused of ordering the bloody crackdown of the 1980 popular uprising in the southwestern provincial city of Kwangju.

Police said some 15,000 riot policemen had been deployed in the city centre and outside the residences of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh and at

access roads to the presidential Blue House.

Meanwhile, police launched a hunt for three student leaders, including Chung Tae-Hung of Korea University.

Arrest warrants were issued for the three on charges of leading illegal protests and sending two students to the North for the pro-unification rally in violation of the anti-communist National Security Law.

Prosecution authorities earlier dropped a case filed by activists and relatives of the victims of the Kwangju uprising against Chun and Roh, which claimed that the two presidents' lack of competence made them responsible for the bloodbath.

But the decision triggered a wave of protests across the country, spearheaded by university professors and religious leaders.

More than 4,000 professors have so far put their names on appeals urging that the two be indicted in connection with the bloody crackdown.



Greek Greenpeace activists wear Chinese hakka hats with the nuclear power sign painted on the top, as they sit chained to each other in front of the Chinese embassy in Athens Wednesday to protest Beijing's plans to hold nuclear tests and its deportation of Greenpeace activists (Reuters photo)

Diana breaks down over sons' holiday

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana broke down and sobbed for 10 minutes at her health club after her children left for a holiday with their father, Prince Charles, the Sun newspaper reported. The princess of Wales had to be comforted by staff at the exclusive Harbour Club after she burst into tears while working out on a running machine, the mass-selling newspaper said. The paper said Diana's crying fit happened three weeks ago just after her sons Prince William, 13, and Prince Harry, 10, left for a holiday with the prince of Wales in Greece.

A 'tired' Clinton goes on summer vacation

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (AFP) — President Bill Clinton kicked off a long-awaited vacation Tuesday, arriving in this western U.S. state "tired" and ready to "play a little golf, but mostly just try to rest." "You've got to do it, you've got to let go," the president told a small group of journalists aboard the presidential jet. Air Force One, which took him from Washington to scenic Jackson Hole in the famous Teton mountains. The president, along with First Lady Hillary Clinton, will stay at the Jackson Hole residence of Senator Jay Rockefeller, a fellow Democrat from the state of West Virginia. They will be joined later by their daughter, Chelsea. Asked what he would do on the trip, Mr. Clinton said: "I'm going to lie down, I'm tired." The president then said he also planned to "take, ride horses (and) read." Numerous political, media and business personalities have homes in Jackson Hole, a ritzy tourist locale in the United States. The Clinton's spent their first two vacations, in 1993 and 1994, in Martha's Vineyard, a vacation island on the northeast U.S. coast.

Girl, 13, married off as substitute wife

KAMPALA (R) — A 13-year-old Ugandan girl was forced to marry her elder sister's husband-to-be after the bride eloped hours before a traditional marriage ceremony, a Ugandan newspaper reported on Wednesday. The monitor said that relatives of Minisa Mukyala hurriedly arranged her marriage after her sister Mwajuma, whose age was not given, ran off with a soldier who danced with her as she waited for the bridegroom. The incident took place last month in the eastern district of Iganga, the newspaper said. Ugandan laws do not permit marriage or sexual relations with girls under 18 years old and the offence is punishable by life imprisonment. But the man, Bimali Katibu, a businessman at the Kenya-Uganda border post of Busia, insisted he would keep his bride, the monitor said. Katibu's age was not given.

1948 Monroe disc to go on block

LONDON (AFP) — A 78 rpm recording of a winsome love ballad cut in 1948 by an unknown 22-year-old actress named Marilyn Monroe goes on the block here next month, expected to fetch up to £10,000 (\$16,000). The pilot record, never released, was recorded by Monroe under the name "How Wrong Can I Be?" while she was still struggling up the show business ladder, said Sotheby's auctioneers. It lay dormant for nearly 30 years among a pile of old 12-inch 78s until the anonymous owner, who inherited them from his father, noticed the handwritten label: "Fred Karger at the piano. Many Klein on the trumpet, vocal by Marilyn Monroe." Sotheby's said the disc was in good condition and the only known copy.

Few Czechs support women in senior posts

PRAGUE (R) — Few Czechs say women are best suited for high government posts, although most believe they should have more involvement in public office, an opinion poll reported Tuesday. Only 17 per cent of 1,000 men and women surveyed agreed that a position in parliament or the cabinet was the most suitable public role for women. The survey by the state institute for the research of public opinion (IVVM) showed that 75 per cent of Czechs said "it would be useful to get women more involved in public posts."

Vietnam to try Buddhist patriarch

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam is to put on trial the patriarch of a dissent Buddhist church, a report said Wednesday, a day after six members of the group were sentenced for "sabotaging religious solidarity."

Thich Huyen Quang, head of the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam, and Thich Long Tri, the group's third ranking official, were named as the latest defendants, the official Vietnam News Agency (VNA) said.

The agency said they were involved in the cases of six Buddhists, including UBCV number two Thich Quang Do, who were sentenced

Tuesday in Ho Chi Minh City after being found guilty of offenses related to state security.

Mr. Do was sentenced to five years jail after protesting the arrest of followers who organised an unofficial flood relief mission to the Mekong Delta and writing a letter of complaint to Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi.

Mr. Quang and Mr. Tri will "be tried by courts in the provinces of Quang Ngai and Quangnam-Danang" in central Vietnam, VNA said, without giving details of dates or specific charges.

Security officials in

Quangnam-Danang said they had received the files on the two Buddhist leaders to carry out further enquiries.

A public prosecutor in Ho Chi Minh City said Mr. Quang and Mr. Tri were accused of masterminding a campaign by Thich Quang Do "aimed at sabotaging the politics of national solidarity."

The UBCV has consistently refused to join the state-sanctioned Buddhist Church, angering Communist Party leaders who have tried to bring all religious under tight control.

According to international human rights groups, Mr.

Quang, 77, has been under house arrest in his Quang Ngai province pagoda since December. The monk, who suffers from high blood pressure, went on hunger strike to protest the arrest of the five who organised the relief mission.

Officials in Hanoi have denied that Mr. Quang was held but have consistently refused his followers and others access to the patriarch.

Along with Mr. Do, three other Buddhists were jailed Tuesday in Ho Chi Minh City — Thich Khong Tanh for five years, Thich Nhat Ban for four years and Thich Tri Luc for two and a half years.

Two lay followers were also jailed — Nhat Thong for three years and Dong Ngoc, a woman, was given a suspended sentence of two years.

VNA said all those sentenced will be put on probation for three to five years after their release.

The agency said they are also accused of having printed and distributed "documents by foreign reactionary forces aimed at inciting unrest."

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said the sentences are "certainly unwelcome."

MAITEO, North Carolina (AP) — Thousands of residents and tourists were ordered to evacuate two North Carolina islands Tuesday as Hurricane Felix held a course directly towards the U.S. mainland after pummeling Bermuda.

Pounding surf thundered all along the U.S. East Coast, forcing lifeguards to close beaches to swimmers. Three people had died in the surf since the weekend. No injuries were reported in Bermuda.

The heart of the unusually wide storm was 360 miles (580 kilometres) east-southeast of the North Carolina coast at 5 p.m. (2100 GMT) Tuesday, moving toward the west-northwest at near 16 mph (26 kph).

Tropical storm-force wind of at least 39 mph (62 kph) could hit the outer banks, a chain of coastal islands, around sunrise Wednesday, with the eye making landfall around sundown, said Steve Harned of the National Weather Service in Raleigh.

The hurricane warning area extended from South Carolina to northern Virginia. A hurricane watch — a less severe form of advisory than a warning — was in effect for coastal areas of South Carolina, Maryland and Delaware on either side of the warning area.

"This storm is very big and widespread," said Tom Ditt, North Carolina State Emergency Management spokesman. "It's going to hit everywhere along the coast in some degree."

Diana breaks down over sons' holiday

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana broke down in tears for 10 minutes after leaving for a holiday with her sons, Prince Charles and Prince William, on Sunday. The princess, who is recovering from a heart operation, was seen in a helicopter leaving the palace. She was accompanied by a large entourage of security and medical staff. The princess is expected to spend the holiday in the Scottish Highlands.

A 'tired' Clinton goes on summer vacation

JACKSON HOLE, WY. (AP) — President Bill Clinton kicked off a vacation in the western state of Wyoming on Sunday. The president, who is recovering from a heart operation, was seen in a helicopter leaving the White House. He is expected to spend the vacation in the Teton mountains. The president is accompanied by his family and a large entourage of security and medical staff.

Girl, 13, marries as substitute life

AMPALA (R) — A 13-year-old Ugandan girl married a man in a traditional ceremony on Sunday. The girl, who is a member of a traditional dance troupe, was seen in a helicopter leaving the village. She is expected to spend the rest of her life with the man. The marriage is a common practice in some parts of Uganda.

48 Monroe die go on block

LONDON (AP) — A recording of a 48-minute ballad cut in 1946 by a young Marilyn Monroe is expected to be released on Sunday. The recording, which is believed to be a rare find, is expected to fetch a high price. The ballad is a tribute to the actor James Dean.

W Czechs support women prior posts

PRAGUE (R) — Czech women are expected to win a majority in the upcoming parliamentary elections. The women's movement has been active in the country, and many women have held high positions in the government. The women's movement is expected to continue its efforts to improve the status of women in the country.



ROUND-THE-WORLD-RECORD: Air France personnel stand around the Concorde attempting to beat the round-the-world speed record during a stopover in Toulouse, where the supersonic plane was originally built. The plane, which left New York at 15.53 GMT Tuesday, will make five more stopovers before its late Wednesday arrival in New York. The flight was expected to take 33 hours and 44 minutes (AFP photo)

Judge in Simpson trial may withdraw

LOS ANGELES (R) — After seven months of testimony, the judge in the O.J. Simpson murder trial may withdraw from the case. The judge, who is recovering from a heart operation, is expected to spend the rest of his life in the hospital. The judge is expected to be replaced by another judge. The trial is expected to continue for several more months.

Armenia's leading opposition party goes underground

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Armenia's main opposition party, Dashnak, says it is going back underground to avoid political persecution by the government. The party, which was founded in 1890, has been active in the country for many years. The party is expected to continue its efforts to improve the status of Armenians in the country.

THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA'S CELEBRATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

HANI AL ASHI in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan offers heart-felt congratulations to His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia, the embassy staff and all the Indonesian people, wishing them continued progress and prosperity on the occasion of Indonesia's Independence Day which falls on Aug. 17. Congratulations to the Indonesian people.

Chechen team returns unexpectedly to peace talks

MOSCOW (R) — Chechen separatist negotiator returned unexpectedly to the capital Grozny Wednesday calling for peace talks to resume with Russia, despite strains over disarming the rebel forces. The Russian government threatened tough measures against the separatists Monday after they failed to accept Moscow's terms on how to carry out a military deal signed July 30. The government ultimatum was followed Tuesday by a strongly-worded statement from President Boris Yeltsin. He threatened to resort to force to disarm the rebels, raising fears of a flare-up in fighting which began eight months ago. "If there is no answer to the statement by the Russian government, or if there is an answer which does not satisfy us, then we will take special, extraordinary and energetic measures, including military measures," Mr. Yeltsin said Tuesday. Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov refused Monday to sign a protocol proposed by the Russian government to agree mechanisms for implementing the military deal. But he said he would adhere to the basic agreement. Mr. Maskhadov and Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov, the Russian military commander in Chechnya, agreed on Tuesday to start disarming the rebels — the key provision of the military agreement — in several locations of the North Caucasus region. TASS said Mr. Romanov and Mr. Maskhadov met at nine a.m. (0500 GMT) in the village of Zandak some 60 kilometres southwest of Grozny. But there were no reports that disarming had started. Mr. Romanov made clear on Tuesday he was reluctant to allow the renewal of hostilities, despite all the difficulties at talks.

Kashmir hostages appear to be safe

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Kashmiri separatists who beheaded a Norwegian hostage do not appear to have carried out a threat to kill four other Western captives, an Indian official said Wednesday. The Al Faran militants contacted Indian negotiators again on Wednesday to discuss the situation, the official said, indicating that the door to a settlement may still be open. In the absence of any adverse report, we presume the four hostages are still safe," said the official, Kulbushan Jandial, the director of information in Jammu-Kashmir state. On Sunday, authorities found the beheaded body of the fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro, and a note from Al Faran threatening to kill the four other captives in two days. Mr. Jandial's news conference was the first official comment indicating that Al Faran had not carried out its threat. "This development is significant," said Mr. Jandial, who refused to give details on the negotiation Wednesday or the militants' demand that India free 15 of their jailed comrades. News reports said India was offering to trade some imprisoned militants for the safe release of the hostages, but not the guerrilla commanders that the kidnappers had demanded. But Mr. Jandial refused to confirm that India was reconsidering its publicly stated position that no one would be released for the hostages. He also declined to say whether the kidnappers had extended the deadline. Top Indian officials have been contacted by Al Faran many times since the crisis began, "sometimes through a mediator and sometimes not," Mr. Jandial said Wednesday. For the first time in their five-year struggle for independence, Kashmiris held a general strike against a militant group on Wednesday, urging the previously unknown Al Faran to free its four captives: An American, two Britons and a German. Since the kidnappings began July 4, Al Faran has released statements, audio-cassettes of their captives, and pictures showing several of them looking sick or wounded. But the rebel group hasn't contacted the media in Srinagar for a week. But an autopsy on Mr. Ostro's remains showed that he had been in good health when he was killed. There also were no signs of a struggle, indicating that he may have been killed quickly in his sleep, said Andrew Reekes, a British doctor who witnessed the autopsy in New Delhi. In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, the general strike called by a coalition of 32 pro-rebel political or religious groups to condemn Al Faran closed government offices, banks, schools and most of the city's shops and businesses. The all-party Freedom Movement has repeatedly criticised Al Faran since it claimed responsibility for the kidnappings. Many people were seen walking down streets of Srinagar on Wednesday, riding in auto-rickshaws, or shopping in dozens of small stores or pharmacies that opened to sell food or medicine. But the majority of residents stayed home. "Our hearts are bleeding for the hostages. We don't know who Al Faran is, but we hope its barbarity hasn't hurt our cause," said M. A. Dar, a businessman. Mr. Dar, who had left his home to buy medicine for his daughter at a local pharmacy, said he supported the strike and would immediately return home and stay there all day. In a separate interview, Omar Farooq, chairman of the all-party Freedom Movement, condemned Al Faran and urged the world to disassociate it with Kashmir's struggle for independence. "Al Faran has given a terrorist reputation to our movement and that's the last thing we want," Mr. Farooq said at his home. "We don't believe in terrorism, fundamentalism or killing innocent people. We are the ones suffering under India's occupation."

Sao Tome rebels want poll in 3 months

SAO TOME (R) — Military coup leaders in the African twin-island state of Sao Tome and Principe asked political parties Wednesday to join a transitional government to prepare for general elections in three months. A military official told reporters the coup leaders made the suggestion in a meeting with leaders of the three main political parties, including those of the ousted president and prime minister. The response of the Party of Democratic Action of deposed President Miguel Trovoada, the Movement for the Freedom of Sao Tome and Principe of deposed Prime Minister Carlos Graça and the Party of Democratic Convergence were not immediately known. Mr. Trovoada and Mr. Graça remained in detention Wednesday. 24 hours after rebel soldiers seized Sao Tome's media, telecommunications and airport in a bloodless coup d'etat. A five-man commission of young army officers took control of Sao Tome in protest at the country's extreme poverty. On Tuesday, the self-styled leader of the commission, Lieutenant Manuel Quintas de Almeida, told Reuters: "We want to recover the dignity of the country and contribute to the elimination of the problems which persist in the country." Sao Tome is a former Portuguese colony situated 200 kilometres off the coast of Gabon, with a population of 130,000. Portuguese TSF Radio quoted coup leaders as saying that both Trovoada and Graça had rejected an offer from the coup leaders to join their self-styled National Salvation Council because they were representatives of a legitimately-elected government. Portuguese President Mario Soares has offered political asylum to Mr. Trovoada, the Portuguese news agency LUSA reported. Portugal has condemned the coup. LUSA quoted a source in the president's office as saying late Tuesday that Soares had told coup leaders by telephone that Portugal would accept Mr. Trovoada, Angola said it was prepared to offer political asylum to the ousted leaders of Sao Tome and Principe. "The president said that bearing in mind the cooperation links between Angola and Sao Tome, his government is entirely willing to grant asylum to Miguel Trovoada and Carlos Graça if it is deemed necessary," Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' office said in a statement. Dos Santos' made his remarks in Brazil where he is on a five-day visit.



Recent photos of Sao Tome President Miguel Trovoada (L) and Prime Minister Carlos Graça



Jordan Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee



Jordan Phosphate Mines Company



Arab Potash Company

Wish the people of Indonesia a happy Independence day affirming Jordanian friendship and hopes of continued progress and prosperity

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CONGRATULATE

His Excellency the President, Government and the People of the Republic of Indonesia on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia, sincerely wishing them all more happiness, peace, prosperity and success.

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Worrisome words and deals

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin laid down a few days ago his vision for peace with the Palestinians. He told his countrymen that the ultimate agreement with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would entail the fulfilment of three Israeli primary conditions: The permanent retention of the terrain adjacent to the Jordan River on the West side, the continuous occupation and control of the hilly areas of "Judea and Samaria," meaning the West Bank, and finally the keeping of the whole of Jerusalem as the "united, eternal" capital of the state of Israel.

We presume that the prime minister disclosed exactly what was on his mind regarding the final settlement with the Palestinians, and on that basis we have to question his territorial vision for the future. We might recall that it was Rabin himself who agreed with the Palestinians and the other Arab parties that Jerusalem's status will be determined in the third and final stage of negotiations with the PNA. With this in mind we have to ask how on the one hand Israel agrees to discuss the ultimate status of the holy city at a future date and on the other hand its prime minister states in the most unequivocal terms that his country would never relinquish East Jerusalem to the Arab side.

As for Rabin's insistence that Israel should control the hills of "Judea and Samaria" come what may, we also see a big problem there since those areas constitute a sizeable chunk of the West Bank territory from which Israel had committed itself to withdraw in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy. Both the Madrid conference and the peace talks that ensued from it stipulate that the basis of all peace negotiations between the two sides should be Resolution 242. The same perspective applies equally to the Jordan Valley area which Rabin wants to keep. Resolution 242 clearly defines these as occupied territories from which Israel should withdraw.

Of course we can always presume that statements by Israeli leaders are mere negotiating tactics or are made to appease the anti-peace elements within Israel itself. We all know the coalition of Jewish settlers and right-wing extremists are determined to derail the Oslo accord and frustrate the hopes for an early redeployment of the Israeli army in the West Bank. But when such announcements as made by the Israeli prime minister are viewed in conjunction with what his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has also been saying (namely that Israel will retain up to 73 per cent of the Palestinian territories in addition to full control over water sources in these areas, according to the latest agreement struck between Israel and Mr. Arafat), then we have grounds to be more than concerned about the course of the Israeli-Palestinian talks and their effect on the entire peace regime in the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily said Wednesday that the Iraqis are in need of real assistance from the Arab World and not mere lip service or expression of sympathy over the grave and deteriorating living conditions in their country. Tareq Masarweh said that the opposition, which lives off the limited backing from foreign countries, is unable to bring about any change in the regime in Baghdad, nor are the Iraqis interested in substituting their present regime with one resembling the Kurdish model in the north of the country. What the Iraqis need, said the writer, is all-out support from the Arab states for ending the sanctions that have caused so much suffering to them. What the Iraqis need now is an end of American threats to their security and the future of their children and their national economy, continued the writer. It is the Arab states which hold the key to ending the embargo on Iraq, he said. He said if the Arabs are able to make peace with the Zionists, they must be able to find peace with the Iraqi Arab people.

A WRITER in Al-Dustour Wednesday urged Arab governments to view the Arab World's interests from a national perspective and refrain from helping the Zionists achieve their ends. Taher Al Adwan said that the Arab regimes ought to wake up to the fact that it is Israel, not Iraq, which poses a threat to the Arab Nation's interests and that it is Israel which continues to jeopardise the city of Jerusalem in total disregard of Arabs' and Muslims' feelings. It is Israel which insists on occupying the Jordan Valley, keeping the Syrian Golan Heights and committing atrocities against the Arabs, while it continues to possess mass destruction weapons to threaten the Arab people.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoub

A habit which we should curb

AS REALISATION of the dangers caused by smoking mounts worldwide, in light of both old and new facts, most countries are nowadays imposing tougher restrictions on smokers and smoking. Even though our society has taken some significant steps in the direction of curbing the effects of the unhealthy habit on smokers and nonsmokers, we still need to cover much more territory than we already have.

We all know the risks and threats to health and life which smoking brings with it. In a recent report, the World Health Organisation (WHO) affirms that three million deaths occur each year worldwide as a result of smoking-related diseases. The fact that smoking is a major cause of heart attacks and cancer is too well-known to be highlighted, and so is the fact that nonsmokers who share the same space with smokers, for longer or for shorter periods of time, have almost as much to suffer and lose (health-wise, that is) as the heavy smokers themselves.

But some recently disclosed facts about smoking are causing a stir, especially in the U.S. Almost everyone knows of the war which has been going on for some time now between the many anti-smoking groups in the U.S. and the tobacco companies and of the suits which have been brought against these companies. The American Medical Association (AMA) has entered the battlefield. The AMA, which in a statement released recently describes the tobacco firms (in angry language) as "predatory," has disclosed that for more than 30 years the U.S. tobacco companies have known and deliberately concealed research results which prove that nicotine is an addictive drug and that smoking is a direct cause of cancer.

While this may not come as much of a surprise to many people and while some people may not be particularly disturbed or alarmed by the AMA disclosure, many in the U.S. are in fact disturbed, alarmed and angry. And they are quite right. For one thing, the mere act of concealment (deliberate concealment, we should remind) is itself incriminating. Just as the dairy companies (and others) are expected to publish in detail the various facts about their products (not only that this bottle contains, for example, skim milk, low-fat milk or ordinary milk, but also how much fat, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrate, fiber, sugar, protein, vitamin and calcium there is in it), so do the tobacco companies. They are supposed to reveal all the

facts, in boring detail, so that people know precisely what they are getting into.

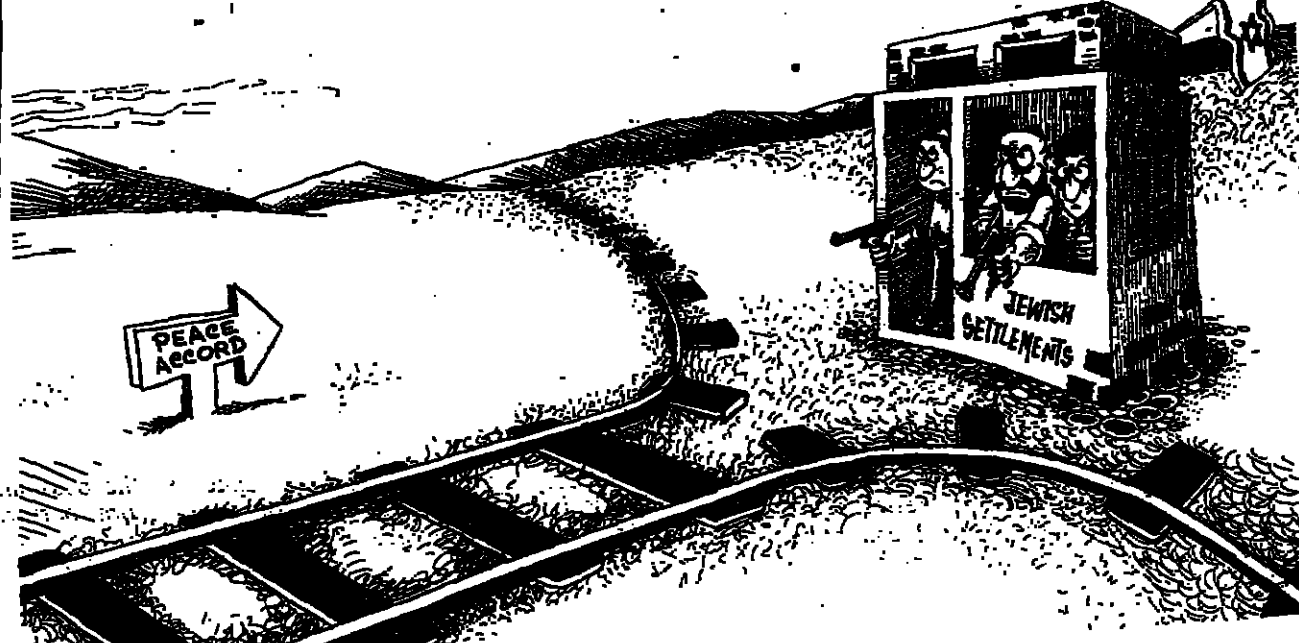
For another thing, if nicotine is an addictive drug, what is the difference between it and the other addictive substances (such as marijuana, crack, etc.) which the U.S. government is waging a war against? In fact, what is the difference, ultimately, between the tobacco companies and drug smugglers and traffickers?

In our society, we still have a long way to go in fighting smoking and minimising its effects on the guilty party themselves (i.e. you smokers) and the innocent segments of the population. I believe that, following the example of many countries, we ought to impose more restrictions on smoking in all public buildings and facilities, in all restaurants, at all our schools and universities, on all means of transportation and so forth. In a society like ours — which (unfortunately) can be often reckless, heedless to advice and ignorant of facts of hazard or danger — the imposition of restrictions has to go without saying. Needless to say, we ought to publicise more devotedly than we have been the various specific facts about smoking and encourage people more aggressively to quit smoking. I know, of course, that many anti-smoking groups exist in our part of the world (both locally and nationally) and that they are doing an excellent job. Nevertheless, they need to be a little more daring, aggressive and creative in their approach.

As for smokers who choose not to quit, even after they know the fact, it is their right to smoke. And it is a right which should be respected and protected. Even many of the anti-smoking groups in the U.S. and Europe are making it clear that what they want is not an all-out ban on smoking but tougher restrictions. An anti-smoking activist has said: "I am ready to fight for the right of smokers to smoke the minute I feel their rights are threatened. It is their right to smoke. But they should do it when and where they do not endanger the health of others."

The purpose of tougher restrictions on smoking is double: They protect nonsmokers against the hazards posed by smoking, and they (by making smoking a little less convenient and life a little more difficult for smokers) encourage those who are addicted to the habit to quit. I think this is only fair.

M. KAHIL



A peril of progress: Civilisation can be tyrants' best ally

Göttingen, Germany — Tyrants, madmen and power hungry dictators around the world are rediscovering an old truth: that the progress of civilisation can be evil's ally.

Ruling, as they do, over subjects kept in their place by fear and fanaticism, they learn that as long as their supply of easily mobilised subjects lasts, they can terrorise, torture, maim and rape with impunity and yet be honoured by another invitation to negotiate.

A few months before the Nazis seized power in Germany in 1933, in response to a request from Albert Einstein, who was trying to rally "men of intellect" against war, Sigmund Freud wrote a letter on the subject of aggression and war.

In it, he said that the progress of civilisation was bestowing on man a sensibility so delicate as to raise hopes that in the future war might become increasingly unlikely: "We simply can't stomach it anymore," he wrote.

In his view, civilised man was becoming too thin-skinned for an activity as repugnant as war. As a psychologist, Freud could content himself with examining the results of civilisation over the long run, when it had worked its wonders on all the peoples of this earth.

For an assessment of the effects of civilisation in the meantime, you have to turn to someone less prone to wishful thinking. Here is Rousseau: "As the conveniences of life are multiplied, as the arts are perfected and luxury spreads, true courage fades, the military vir-

tuities vanish, and this is the world of the sciences and all those arts, which secretly exert their influence in governmental chambers. "When the Goths ravaged Greece, they refrained from burning all the libraries because one of them said that they ought to leave their enemies in possession of something that was so effective in turning them away from military exercises and diverting them with idle and sedentary occupations."

Charles VIII became master of Tuscany and the Kingdom of Naples almost without having drawn his sword, and his whole court attributed the unexpected ease of his success to the fact that the monarchs and noblemen of Italy were more concerned with cultivating wit and learning than with training themselves to be warriors. In fact... experience has always shown that in military matters and everything similar to them, study of the sciences tends much more to make men soft and effeminate than to stir and strengthen their courage.

"The Romans admitted that military virtue had declined among them in proportion as they became connoisseurs in painting, sculpture and the art of the goldsmith, and began cultivating the fine arts."

And with refinement in the arts comes increased property to worry about, as Tocqueville knew: "The ever-increasing number of men of property devoted to peace, the growth of personal property which war so rapidly devours,

mildness of mores, gentleness of heart... all these causes act together to damp down warlike fervor. Yet, Tocqueville continued, "war is a hazard to which all nations are subject, democracies as well as the rest."

"No matter how greatly such nations may be devoted to peace, they must be ready to defend themselves," he wrote.

Civilised nations, it seems, find themselves in a dilemma. While their natural inclinations and tastes run towards peace and tranquillity, they become increasingly vulnerable to tyrants who are untroubled by the thought of sending a battalion after battalion to certain death if it will advance their gamble for power and glory.

Thus it becomes difficult for a civilised nation to know the line between love of peace and cowardice in the face of tyranny, between Freud's aesthetic indignation and Rousseau's realism. It seems to me that the burden of demarcating that fine but vitally important line falls upon the leaders of the civilised world.

If they respond to atrocity by calling for another conference, if they appear to put a higher priority on the strategy of their reelection campaign than on the strategy of an effective military campaign to stop the slaughter of innocents, they are doing more than gambling with the lives of those people.

They are also gambling with justice and morality, the very soul of democratic nations. No free people can, year af-

ter year, passively endure horrific crime, carried out in front of cameras and other media, without turning callous, indifferent and cynical.

From the news channel, reporting torture and abuse of innocent people, to the sports channel, with cameras trained on the calming green of a golf tournament, is after all, only a click.

To all this our leaders respond that, when it comes to making war, we must listen to the voice of reason so we don't repent at leisure. True enough. But there is no decision about war without a moral basis, and there is no morality without intuitive feelings of justice and injustice being engaged.

In questions of war and peace, prudence is the first duty of a civilised nation. But what the leaders of democratic nations need to keep in mind, too, is that the voice of morality and idealism that demands putting an end to injustice and atrocity, if need be by force, cannot be silenced with impunity forever.

When, encouraged by all this well-argued passivity, a bigger tyrant tries his hand at testing our martial temper, leaders trying to rally citizens to the fight for liberty and justice may find their people deaf on that ear. Or maybe be just switching channels.

The writer is a sociologist at the University of Göttingen. He contributed the above article to International Herald Tribune.

Five million Arabs who don't exist

Arafat and Peres may come to an agreement but that will not bring peace

By Robert Fisk

IN THE Beit Agron, the Israeli equivalent of a ministry of information, a new brochure can be found on the shelves for visitors who need some statistics about the region. Produced by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, it states that Israel is "bordered by Lebanon in the north, Syria to the northeast, Jordan in the east, Egypt to the southwest." At no point does the document suggest that there is an occupied Palestinian Arab land between occupied Jerusalem and Jordan. It does not even suggest that Gaza, which very definitely lies between Israel and Egypt, exists. Nor does the word "Palestinian" appear in the text.

Indeed, an Israeli official explained to the Independent recently that Palestinian Arabs were not included in the document's population figure of 5,238,000 inhabiting the area between Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. He took it for granted, however, that the 1,958,000 telephone subscribers listed in the document included Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza. Thus are the Palestinians — whose future will decide peace or war in the Middle East — depicted by the Israeli foreign ministry: as telephone subscribers, but not as people. This symbolises all too well the near-schizoid attitude, which many — though, thankfully, not all — Israelis demonstrate towards those with whom they apparently wish to be friends.

When yet another PLO-Israeli signature was hourly expected, Gaza had been sealed off yet again by the Israelis, this time because they objected to statements made there by opponents of the "peace process".

You only have to read the Jerusalem Post to comprehend this irreconcilable approach to peace. News reports on the front page record without comment the endless and inevitably vain meetings between the Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, and Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, to maintain the "peace process" after more than a year of delays. Yet feature articles on inside pages talk of Palestinian "terrorism" and the steadfastness of Jewish settlers to cling to land that has been appropriated (for which read "stolen") from its Arab owners.

And while the belt of Jewish settlements continues to be built around Arab East Jerusalem, CNN — at its most journalistic — refers to the conflict between the Arabs, who are losing their land and the Jews, who are taking it as "conflicting heritages claims", all the while, of course, claiming that the "peace process" is "back on track", even when it is palpably collapsing. In the West Bank, Israeli plain-clothes squads continue to shoot down Palestinian "terrorists" while another group of "terrorists" — Jewish time — regularly opens fire on the Jerusalem home of Faisal Husseini, one of the most distinguished senior PLO officials.

Within a week Hussein's house has recently come under fire three times from Israeli brandishing pistols and Uzzi sub-machine guns, provoking the U.S. consul, Ed Abington, to issue a highly unusual statement. "I do not understand why the (Israeli) government does not curb those who cross over the line of civil disobedience," he said. "Where is law and order?... If a Palestinian did this (to an Israeli), you know what the reaction would be."

And, of course, we do know what the reaction would be. For Yasser Arafat himself is now under increasing pressure to treat not just militant Palestinian

groups but any Palestinian opposed to the American-Israeli peace with equal ruthlessness. Equipped now with a clutch of intelligence services, secret courts and a set of press laws that, in effect, ban freedom of speech in local Palestinian newspapers, the PLO leader, who once claimed that Palestine would be the first real democracy in the Arab World, is rapidly turning into another Israeli satrap, as frightening and as weak as General Antoine Lahd, the cashiered Lebanese army officer who runs "security" at the other end of Israel.

Just as Gen. Lahd was reduced to claiming that his presence in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon "relieved the worst effects of the Israeli presence," so Mr. Arafat's men are saying the same thing. "Which would the Palestinians rather have in Gaza?" one of them asked me recently. "The Israeli occupation of a year ago? Or the PLO's presence now?"

That the PLO should now promote itself as an alternative to Israeli rule — rather than the aspiration of all Palestinians in the occupied territories — tells its own story. "The problem for the PLO is that it feels psychologically, geographically, and physically trapped," Hanan Ashrawi, the most persuasive of all Palestinian spokespersons, said. "The greater the pressure from the Israelis upon the PLO, the more the PLO loses credibility and legitimacy with the Palestinians. The more the PLO shows it can deliver on the Israeli's principle demand — security — the less it is accepted by its own people."

Dr. Ashrawi insists that while the "peace process" may "fizzle out", it has brought both the Palestinians and the Israelis "face to face with themselves". It has forced the Israelis as well as the Palestinians to ask if they really want peace. Yet travelling back that same day from Dr. Ashrawi's home in Ramallah, my "service" taxi packed with Palestinian civilians — was stopped at an Israeli police checkpoint outside Jerusalem. The cop did not ask for the driver's papers — he shouted for them. "Passport," he screamed at me. When the driver could not produce a working fire extinguisher in his vehicle, the Israeli policeman cursed him and the passengers muttered obscenities at the policeman. I didn't show my passport — because the policeman did not want to see it. He wanted to shout at the occupants of the car. And as we drove away from his checkpoint, the obscenities continued among the passengers. For the occupants of our taxi that hot afternoon, the "peace process" died.

There are few Palestinians who do not realise that Mr. Arafat made peace out of impotence rather than strength. To make peace with Israel, the Arabs are learning, one must be exhausted, ineffectual, powerless. Is Syria weak enough to make peace now? Or is she too strong? Must Syria, too, be humbled, brought to the negotiating table by some swift, provoked military action by Israel (in Lebanon, no doubt)? This is the question many Syrians are now asking, aware that their president appears to have no intention of bowing to the Israelis without the return of all Golan.

It is a deeply disturbing notion. For, from his palace above Damascus, President Assad can now look south towards a land where Palestinians are masters of their destiny in name rather than in fact, where the bulldozer of peace has produced a new level of double standards, where "peace" has become a synonym for compliance and where cynicism is fast overtaking the desire for peace among both Palestinians and Israelis. What incentive is left for the Arabs who have not yet signed a peace treaty?

The Independent.

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Weekender

Aug. 17, 1995

Published Every Thursday

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

The news was either too slow, or the journalists too fast

Journalists from far and wide who converged once again on Amman, this time to cover the defection of Iraqi Lieutenant General Hussein Kamal Hassan to Jordan last week, were held over in anticipation of an audience with His Majesty King Hussein, either at a press conference or through an informal meeting, which, unfortunately did not materialise. When most of them had already left town, it was rumoured that Saddam Hussein, wife of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, had arrived in Amman. Without confirmation, most of the correspondents simply said "Oops, too late." Among those who had been in town were Mary Curtis of the Los Angeles Times, Dan Williams of the Rome office of the Washington Post, Yusef Ibrahim, who is moving to the financial section of the New York Times from his base in Paris where he has been covering the Middle East, Ernest Jordan, vice-president of Cable News Network (CNN), Mary Colvin of the Sunday Times, Peter Haines of the New York Times, Gisela Dachs of the Jerusalem office of Die Zeit, Wolfgang Kohler of Frankfurt Allgemeine and Volkhard Windfur of Der Spiegel.

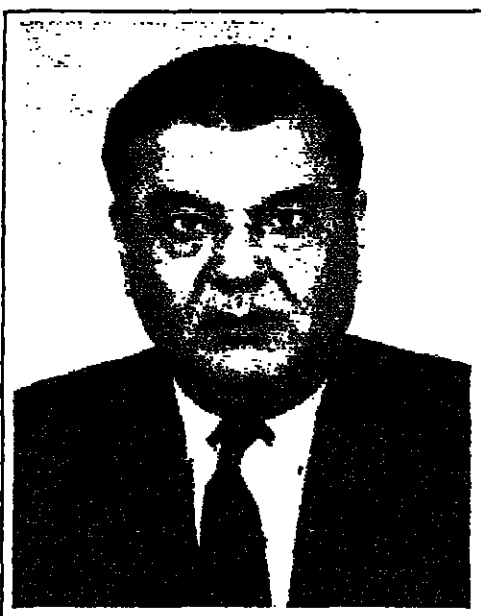
nate Michel de Salaberry. He's 50, single and speaks three Romance languages (French, of course, Italian and Spanish). Born in Hull, Quebec, Mr. de Salaberry has gone through the ranks to reach where he is today. After two years as an assistant lecturer of political science at Ottawa University, Mr. de Salaberry opted for a career switch and entered the foreign service. His first overseas assignment was as second secretary to his embassy in Algiers from 1975-76. Other postings, between home base assignments in Ottawa, have been first secretary and consul in Rome (1981-1985) and counsellor and consul in Tel Aviv (1989-1992). From 1993 until his posting to Amman, Mr. de Salaberry was director of the Middle East Relations Division of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The ambassador-designate was out of town but will certainly be back in time to present his credentials to the King.

years, Mr. Budhiraja is completing his term on Aug. 31 on which date he will also retire from service in the Indian government at the age of 58. Prior to his posting to Jordan, Mr. Budhiraja was assigned to Kuwait from 1989 to 1990, and was there when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Of his tenure in Jordan Mr. Budhiraja says the highlight for him personally was to attend the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. "It was an amazing day, and I will never forget it!" he says. He has nothing but kind words for the people of Jordan and maintains that his stay here has been very pleasant. He stresses that Jordan is "ruled by a man of great vision... It has been something to witness its progress." Mr. Budhiraja, who is from the state of Punjab, will go back to India accompanied by his wife and daughter and reunite with his son who is studying and working there. At the reception attended by between 250-300 Jordanians, Indians and members of the diplomatic corps in Amman, he told guests that he would be returning to Delhi and plans to work in some other sphere after a short vacation.

satisfy the local appetite for deep-fried poultry. Not so. Its owners, Arab Foods Catering Company (AFC), have signed an agreement with America's Favorite Chicken Company (also AFC) for a total of four Popeyes restaurants, all of them in Amman. Arab Foods Catering General Manager Khalid Dahleh, who, along with his brother Marwan Dahleh, Avni Shaker and Mazen Ansari (the major shareholders of the Jordan University for Women) are also partners in the company which has just purchased the Pizza Hut franchise in Jordan, says the company goal is to make Popeyes "the number one chicken chain in Jordan." That's quite a few feathers to pluck.

M-Net, wherefore art thou? If you are one of those people who found that shortly after paying your installation fees and subscription charges to get connected to the satellite programmes offered by the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation your favourite M-Net channel was taken away, we fear that situation may be permanent. Charges for the movie/music channel were just too high we are told, and that is why you have been watching StarPlus instead. But with the new agreement signed Wednesday between JTV and the Orbit Television Network, hope could be just a remote control gadget away. Although the agreement stipulates that Orbit will broadcast JTV Arab Satellite programmes to its system of receivers, particularly in Europe, there could be an opportunity for JTV to be on the receiving end of Orbit programmes. Orbit offers a wide variety of "fun for the whole family" sort of programmes, including the Fun Channel for kids where host Amy, who paid a visit to Jordan a few months ago, engages children in fun learning experiences. Perhaps if Orbit's rates are not exorbitant, subscribing viewers may have a whole new world to choose from. We will do our best to keep you tuned in.

Jennifer Hamarneh



A time to remember: Indian Ambassador Arun Kumar Budhiraja and his wife, Gita, bid farewell to friends and associates Tuesday night at a reception they hosted at their residence to celebrate India's independence day. Here just over three

Facing round 2: University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh was appointed to a second four-year term this week. The 52-year-old graduate of Cairo University, Texas Tech University and the University of Wisconsin, in the U.S., will be faced in his coming term with an awesome task of trying to manage a university built to accommodate 10,000 students but bursting at the seams with a student body of 23,000, and thus an inflated student/professor ratio, all in the midst of a major budgetary crisis. With a strong background in economics, sufficient experience in crisis management and an almost enviable composure, Dr. Gharaibeh may just well pull through this one too. Meanwhile, his wife, Hannan, and children Lana, Ahmad and Dina are happy with the news.

Welcome Mr. Ambassador: Here to take the place vacated by Andrew Robinson is Canada's ambassador-designate

La Scala sings the blues, says faces cash crisis

By Crispian Balmer
Reuters

MILAN — The curtain has just come down on another dazzling season at Milan's opulent La Scala opera house but a chorus of dire warnings is already ringing out about next year's programme.

La Scala's directors say they are not facing an artistic problem but rather a financial mess which is threatening to engulf the company.

"We are in a complete crisis situation. It has never been so serious," La Scala's General Manager Carlo Fontana told Reuters.

La Scala, based in the centre of this wealthy northern Italian city, is run by the state and depends on government subsidies for survival.

Fontana says these handouts have been declining steadily over the past four years.

"Italy is world famous for its opera and should be supported by the state, but at heart Italy's political class doesn't have a

great cultural back-

ground," Fontana said. Threats from the Treasury Ministry of a 10 per cent cut in funding over the next two years has sent a shiver through the gilded corridors of the company.

"The funds we have are not enough to pay the salaries up to the end of the 1996 season. We need stable public funding and more private contributions," Fontana said.

The opera, renowned for its sumptuous productions, captured the lime-light earlier this year when the 104-strong chorus wore their own clothes rather than costumes for the opening act of Arrigo Boito's 'Mefistofele' in a protest over salaries.

Then in June a section of the orchestra, fighting for new contracts, went on strike before a performance of 'La Traviata'.

Rather than cancel the show, La Scala's resident conductor Riccardo Muti decided to improvise a piano accompaniment to the Verdi masterpiece, getting a standing ovation at the end of his virtuoso

performance.

But far from laughing but at his striking work force, Muti has turned his fury on the state which he accuses of neglecting the arts. "I'm angry at how singers and orchestras are treated, and about what is happening to theatres," Muti said last month.

The state last year gave La Scala 78.4 billion lire (\$49 million), accounting for 59 per cent of the theatre's revenue. In 1990, government handouts made up 63 per cent of total income.

Now, we're threatened by cuts again for 1996," Fontana said.

Despite Fontana's broadsides against Rome, La Scala's financial position is the envy of many impoverished arts houses around Europe. The company carries no debts and even managed to close 1994 with a 19 million lire (\$12,000) profit.

By comparison Britain's Covent Garden has debts approaching \$10 million and receives an annual grant of some \$31 million. Fontana says La Scala's

higher funding is reflected in better productions.

"I challenge any other opera house in the world to produce a season like we've just enjoyed," said 48-year Fontana, arguing that detractors had focused on the recent behind-the-scenes disputes and not on the productions.

"Theatres which frankly don't shine for their artistic productions, like Covent Garden in Britain, have it in their interests to present La Scala as it isn't," he said.

And La Scala's management know that Milan's sophisticated opera goers will accept nothing but the best.

Two years ago Luciano Pavarotti was booed and heckled by spectators at the first night of Verdi's 'Don Carlos' when the leading tenor made two mistakes while singing the lead role.

To safeguard the artistic merit of the company, which last year put on a total 192 performances of opera, ballet and concerts, the government will have

to carry on digging deep into its pocket and at the same time introduce tax-perks to attract private sponsors, Fontana said.

"La Scala would like to be a foundation, with a mixed revenue base, receiving both private and public funds," said Fontana, who has managed La Scala since 1990.

A spokesman for the government's performing arts department said the state largely backed these proposals. "The situation as it stands doesn't please anyone so will have to be changed. But we can't create special laws just for La Scala," he said.

Instead he said his ministry was looking into letting all theatres become private entities and that until this was enshrined in law La Scala should hunt out fresh revenue sources.

But any question of raising more money through higher ticket prices is dismissed, with the average cost of a ticket for the 1994 season of 123,000 lire (\$77) already seen as too high.

Likewise the possibility of doing more performances during the year is ruled out by La Scala, despite the fact that many of the more popular productions could be sold out twice over.

"It is an old fashioned theatre without much high technology backstage. We can't use it any more than we do," Fontana said. Instead the company is seeking rich benefactors, pointing out that private firms are picking up the bill for a full-scale tour of Japan this September, when La Scala will fly out some 670 singers, dancers, musicians and technicians to Tokyo.

In the meantime work is already under way on next season's programme, which kicks off on the traditional high society first night of December 7 with a production of Mozart's 'Magic Flute'.

"It's very hard to plan things without knowing what's happening... but with a bit of courage and imagination anything is possible," Fontana said.

Japanese fiction changes course of history after World War II

By Makiko Tazaki
Agence France Presse

TOKYO — What if Japan had openly declared war on the United States instead of launching a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, then conquered Hawaii and granted its people independence? And how would history be recorded if Tokyo's military leaders then signed a peace treaty with Washington and declared war on Germany?

Welcome to the world of fantasy war novels, where Japanese authors have rewritten the course of history and sold millions of copies to readers eager to ponder the outcome of World War II if circumstances had been different.

War simulation novels have attracted a wide audience, from teenage war buffs who also replay the war's popular battles on computer simulations to elderly war veterans, and publishers have been reaping the profits of the pulp fiction since the genre became popular about five years ago.

But as Japan marked the 50th anniversary on August 15 of its surrender to the allied forces, the popularity of such novels is making publishers nervous.

"We've been bothered a lot by those who say our books are militaristic," said Akira Shibata, an editor with Tokyo publishing house Tokuma Shoten.

"But those books have nothing to do with ideology, they are just a form of entertainment."

The novels, usually filled with descriptive battle scenes, give the Japanese Imperial Army a second chance, as their authors imagine what would have happened if Japan had made different choices in the war.

The 16-volume "Deep

Blue Fleet" series, written by Yoshio Aramaki, for example, casts real-life Naval Commander Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto in a scenario where he openly declares war on the United States.

With better equipment and strategies, Japan destroys the Panama canal and captures Hawaii and grants it independence from Washington. Towards the end of the series, Japan even fights against Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

Tokuma Shoten has sold about four million copies of the Deep Blue Fleet series since December 1990, Shibata said.

But rewriting history, especially where World War II is concerned, runs the risk of misleading people to believe more in the fiction than in reality, according to Biten Yamamoto, a professor of history and psychology in Tokyo.

The books "are interesting as games and may be meaningful as a kind of brain exercise," Yamamoto said.

"It's probably okay if one knows the history and reads the fantasy novels as pure entertainment."

"But it can be dangerous if a person starts getting carried away and gets reality mixed up with fantasy," he said.

Losing borders between the reality and fantasy was what happened to the Aum (supreme truth), wasn't it?" Yamamoto said, referring to the Doomsday cult that is linked to the sarin nerve gas attack in the Tokyo subway in March.

Shibata counters that argument, saying that "most readers are well versed in history," adding that for most readers the "books are not interesting if they don't know the history."

War declared in NZ on how to teach reading

By Simon Louissou
Reuters

WELLINGTON — A war of words has broken out in New Zealand about how reading should be taught.

The conflict, conducted through magazines, academic journals and television, is surprisingly bitter. It has polarised academics and teachers and left children as the possible victims.

"This is a reading war," said Auckland University Associate Professor of Education Tom Nicholson, who urges a traditional letters-and-sounds approach to reading known as phonics.

"If you mention phonics at a conference, people just walk away from you," he told Reuters.

Phonics supporters, often identified with right-wing politics, have even been labelled by critics as child abusers.

"We have been called 'phonicators', the implication being that we are like

sex abusers," Mr. Nicholson said.

At issue is the "whole language" approach to reading, a system pioneered in New Zealand and increasingly being used in the English-speaking world and elsewhere.

Whole language teaching says children should use context to learn. The specific teaching of sounds and letters, the ABC, is not considered vital or even necessary.

The child is given a book and uses knowledge, taught experience and pictures in the book as clues to guess or predict the words in the book. The specific teaching of sounds is not considered vital because the child will learn those gradually as he or she learns to read.

Warwick Elley, author of "How On Earth Do Students Read," agrees whole language is increasingly being used worldwide although he

says few nations have universally adopted it like New Zealand, Singapore, Australia and England have adopted less radical versions, while in the non-English speaking world, Sweden is the leading exponent of whole language.

The major advantages of whole language, according to Auckland College of Education Mead of Reading, Libby Limbrick, is that children are more encouraged to seek out meaning, to be critical thinkers and be motivated to read.

New Zealand is a world leader in reading. Kiwis buy more books per head than any other country and New Zealand children are consistently at the top in international literacy tests.

But warning bells are ringing. Mr. Nicholson and Massey University Professor William Tunmer say the introduction of whole language reading since the 1960s is to blame for what they see as falling

standards. "Over that time New Zealand children's reading performance has begun to deteriorate," said Mr. Nicholson.

"Since 1970, more and more children are having difficulty and that can be seen by the numbers of children going into remedial reading programmes at aged six," he added.

Critics point to a slip in international comparative tests, apparent declining literacy standards of school leavers and 27 per cent of six year-olds going into a nationwide remedial reading programme, known as reading recovery.

Mr. Nicholson is also following up some preliminary research which shows whole language teaching has a disproportionately high failure rate among poorer children.

"Middle class children fail, but not as much, because their parents jump into the breach where the school fails," he

said.

A 1989 study compared Scottish and New Zealand children of similar backgrounds. Scottish eight-year-olds, taught with a mixed approach including phonics were on average 10 months ahead in reading and even in comprehension, one of the supposed strengths of whole language.

Stuart McNaughton, a defender of whole language, who is also Associated Professor of Education at Auckland University, said there is no evidence of deteriorating standards.

"The latest international study shows New Zealand is up there with other countries. I don't think there is that much evidence of a deterioration over time."

Like almost all whole language proponents, Mr. McNaughton denies that phonics is ignored under the modern system. "Good teachers teach phonics as part of the

programme," he said. "To say that they don't do it is just not right."

Pure whole language theory suggests children learn reading and writing as they learn spoken language, where grammar and syntax come naturally.

Mr. Nicholson said this is wrong. "You are genetically programmed to talk in whatever environment you are in but you won't necessarily learn to read. All the research is pointing to the fact that children who rely on context a lot are most likely to be poor readers," he said.

Although he would oppose a return to a learning system based entirely on phonics, Mr. McNaughton accepts the balance may have tilted too far in New Zealand towards whole language.

"We want an integrated programme and maybe one of the components of that could be beefed up," he said.

On quality street

By Jean-Claude Elias

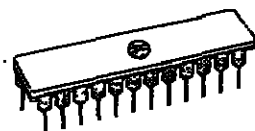
A few months ago, leaving the Royal Cultural Centre at the end of a recital, I had an interesting chat with one of Jordan's leading pianists. We talked mainly about electronic synthesizers — those amazing, affordable piano-like keyboards that can reproduce hundreds of sounds.

My argument, maybe because of a weakness for electronics which I cannot fight, was that synthesizers are making music more popular than ever, allowing a greater number of music lovers to become performers. Definitely a good thing, I said. The pianist's point of view, however, was that this situation doesn't make music any better. In her own words: "With synthesizers, we have more of a bad thing!"

Thinking it over today, and without entering the philosophical debate of what is good and what is bad, I believe she was right. Easy access to inexpensive equipment does nothing but contribute to letting more people make more noise. Unless, of course, proper training and education is given at the same time. A strange parallel can be drawn between synthesizers and PCs (personal computers).

The fact that everybody, virtually, has access to or uses PCs today doesn't mean that everybody has mastered the art (or science if one wishes) of computing. The widespread usage of machines per se hasn't improved the standard of data processing or

chip talk



informatics. To be true, the art has improved but certainly not in direct proportion to the number of PCs in use worldwide.

What we have here is a typical case of quality versus quantity. When a system becomes very popular or follows a vulgarisation process, quality often is sacrificed to quantity. The phenomenon is also obvious with software. I hear computer users brag about the impressive number of programmes they have acquired. Rarely do I hear them talk about one programme in depth or in detail. Even after using Windows for years many people ignore some of its basics.

For most of what we do, in our daily work more particularly, the benefit is greater if we concentrate on quality. There's a vital but fine line between sloppy, amateurish work and quality one. It's simply called professionalism.

Modern living week

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Today, this column brings you an exclusive interview with the newly appointed director of the Foundation for Creative Environments.

- Dear sir, thank you very much for being with us today.

- The pleasure is all mine.

- The foundation of which you have been appointed director has been charged with the task of sorting out priorities for action within our city such as placing things like new traffic lights where they are genuinely needed. Could you tell us something about the set of criteria that you will adopt?

- This is certainly a very good question. I will have to get back to you on this one.

- Many international television channels have been broadcasting a series of programmes on the changes taking place in the world of art, design and technology. Would you personally campaign to get such educational programmes aired on our local channels?

- This is certainly a very good question. I will have to get back to you on this one.

- As we do every summer, we are witnessing a tremendous influx of visitors and tourists, their cars and what have you. And as we do every summer, we are also witnessing the simultaneous stretching to the limits of services such as telephones and water. What are your plans to reduce the pressure on such public services, to reduce the intolerable traffic jams on our streets that accompany such an influx, and to help minimise the disrupting influence of such an influx on the daily lives of our citizens?

- This is certainly a very good question. I will have to get back to you on this one.

- Could you please tell us why the cellular phones

on offer on the market are being sold here at nearly seven times their average price say, for example, in the United Kingdom?

- This is certainly a very good question. I will have to get back to you on this one.

- With every passing day, more and more new apartments are being placed on the market for sale at ever higher prices. How would you explain this apparently dismal failure of the theory of supply and demand as regards prices?

- This is certainly a very good question. I will have to get back to you on this one.

- There have appeared of late advertisements in the local press for houses being on offer for \$1 million — with the digits highlights in bold letters. Would you consider hiring a specialist in order to find out what kind of person would buy such a house?

- This is certainly a very good question. I will have to get back to you on this one.

- Europeans travel to places such as India, Java and Tibet and take back ideas and elements of the lifestyle with them to Europe. Why do we look towards the West for inspiration while people in the West obviously look towards the East?

- This is certainly a very good question. I will have to get back to you on this one.

- Life with the internet is the next big thing: any chance of all of us here ever getting on the net, so to speak?

- This is certainly a very good question. I will have to get back to you on this one.

- Dear sir, (hem, hem) thank you for your being with us here today. The interview has been very insightful.

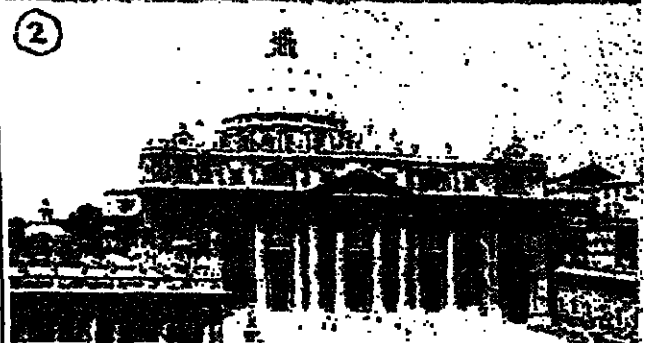
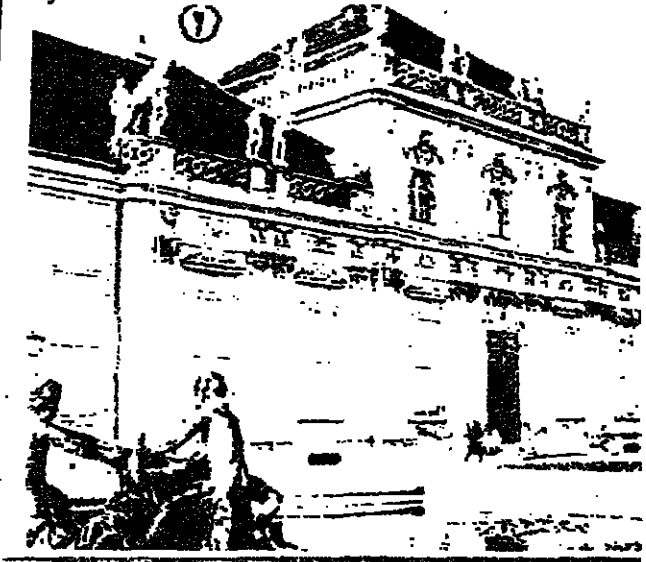
- Thank you.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BRUSH UP YOUR MEMORY

Are you interested in travel? If so identify these famous places. Getting to know all of them, your memory and impression of things prove to be fantastically wonderful!



ASTOUNDING FACTS

- The smallest known starfish is found deep in the Mediterranean, which is not known to exceed a diameter of 0.78 inches.

★ In 1977 there were an estimated 41,000,000 dogs in the United States, compared to 5,300,000 in the U.K.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The emperor penguin of the Antarctic can reach a depth of 870 feet and remain submerged for as long as 18 minutes.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Vivian "Sailor Joe" Simmons, a Canadian tattoo artist, had 4,831 tattoos on his body. He died in Toronto on Dec. 22, 1965, aged 77.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- My family speaks Arabic.
Ossrati tatakallam al-Arabiya.
- My son learns medicine.
Ebnai yadross at'tibb.
- My uncle likes music.
Ammi yohib al-mooseeqa.
- My sister plays karate.
Okhti tal'ab al-karate.

- My father writes books.
Abee yu'allef kutuban.
- My mother likes flowers.
Ommi tohib al-azhaar.

- My brother hates liars.
Ahi yakrah al-kath'habeen.
- My aunt adores jewellery.
Ammati ta'bad al-mujaw'harat.

- My friend practises boxing and wrestling.
Sadeeqi yumaress al-mulakama wal-musaa'ra'a.
- I tell funny jokes!
Ana aqool nikat mud'hika!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

★ P.E. TEACHER: "Allison, you're hopeless at sports. You'll never come first in anything."

ALLISON: "I'm first everyday in the dinner queue, Miss!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ "Now Frank," said the weary maths teacher, "if you had \$15 in one pocket and \$15 in another pocket, what would you have?"

"Some else's trousers on!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ What must you pay when you go to school?
"Attention."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Why is Boxing Day so called?
2. Name the THREE WISE MEN?
3. Whose signature appears on English banknotes?
4. Aug. 14, 1945, was given what name?
5. Which of the three Brontë sisters wrote Wuthering Heights?
6. What does the word "Carol" mean?
7. Which country drinks most coffee per person:
(a) Sweden (b) France (c) United States?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday,
Aug. 17

1:30 Iris-The Happy Professor

1:40 Noddy

2:00 Fireman Sam

2:15 My Secret Identity

2:30 N.B.A.

3:00 Dead Men's Tales

3:30 Take Your Pick

4:00 I Witness Video

5:00 Children's programme Rahan

5:30 Varieties And Game Show

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine — Portrait D'Alain Cavalier

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 National Geographic

8:30 The Album Show

9:15 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — L'addition — The Bill

Starring: Richard Berry & Victoria Abril

12:00 Shogun — Part Eight

Friday,
Aug. 18

1:00 Read-A-All Deed-A-All

1:15 Beethoven

1:30 Why I Didn't Think Of That

2:00 White Fang

2:30 Movie — Black Beard's Ghost

Starring: Peter Ustinov & Dean Jones

4:00 The Crystal Maze

5:00 Children Programme Rahan

5:30 Telefilm La Maison Des Autres 1/2

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine — E=M6

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 An End To Silence

8:00 Coach

8:30 Jordan Today

9:15 Scoop

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Young Ivanhoe

Starring: Stacy Keach & Margot Kidder

11:50 Out On A Limb

12:30 The Powers That Be

Saturday,
Aug. 19

2:00 Back To The Future

2:30 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Road To Avonlea

4:00 Families

5:00 Children's Programme Doug

5:30 Documentary — Palettes

6:00 Place En Garde A Vue

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Rever

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 An End To Silence

8:00 Major Dad

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Ride With The Wind

Starring: Graig Nelson & Helen Shaver

11:50 Noble House (Best Seller) Part I.

Sunday,
Aug. 20

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 The Mighty Jungle

3:00 Pugwall's Summer

3:30 Sky Trackers

4:00 Families

5:00 Children's Programme Doug

5:30 Reportage — Envoyé Special

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Ushuaia: Le Magazine De L'Extreme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Cinema, Cinema

8:00 Nurses

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Strathblair

10:00 News In English

10:25 Counterstrike

11:30 The Hidden Room

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

Monday,
Aug. 21

2:00 The Animals Of Farthing Wood

2:30 Hey Dad!

3:00 Survival

4:00 Families

5:00 Children's Programme Doug

5:30 Reportage — Envoyé Special

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Ushuaia: Le Magazine De L'Extreme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 An End To Silence

8:00 McHale's Navy

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Harts Of The West

10:00 News In English

10:25 The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries — "Murder Being Once Done" Part III of III

11:30 Movie-Retun "Witness"

Starring: Harrison Ford & Josef Sommer

A little boy from a religious group witnesses a murder at a railway station, eventually this reveals the involvement of the police in it.

Tuesday,
Aug. 22

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.

3:00 The Road To Avonlea

4:00 Families

5:00 Children Programme — Doug

5:30 Magazine — Montagne

5:50 Varieties — Taratata

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Rever

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 You Bet Your Life

8:00 Piglet Files

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 True Blue

10:00 News In English

10:25 The Fire Next Time

11:30 New York Undercover

12:00 Grace Under Fire

Wednesday,
Aug. 23

2:00 Problem Child

2:30 Super Champs

3:00 Tomorrow's World

3:30 Amazing Stories

4:00 Families

5:00 Children Programme — Rahan

5:30 Les Cinq Dernieres Minutes

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Ushuaia, Le Magazine De L'Extreme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 An End To Silence

8:00 Anything For A Laugh

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Heart Of Healing

10:00 News In English

10:25 Prism

10:45 Blue Skies

11:45 Murder in Texas

Thousands of Israelis gathered at a memorial service for the deceased.

By Marlene...

NEW YORK...

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In 'goitre land' victims too poor to seek medical help

By Nadeem Qadir
Agence France Presse
BUKSHIGANJ, Bang-

ladesh — So many goitre sufferers live in this iodine-deficient village that the area has been dubbed goitre land.

When word spread that outsiders, possibly doctors, had arrived to examine the sufferers' enlarged thyroid glands, some 50 desperate, impoverished patients jammed the quarters where the AFP team was staying, hoping to receive free treatment.

"The people here and in nearby districts are too poor to seek medical treatment, and some who do cannot bear the minimum 350 taka (\$8.75) per month cost of a sustained nine-month treatment," said Mohammad Shamsul Huq, the chief medical officer here.

He cited a severe shortage of iodine in the water and the soil as the cause of the extraordinary number of goitre sufferers in the Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts.

Experts blame the loss of iodine from the soil and water on the region's

vulnerability to floods and heavy rains, which wash away the natural element.

The villagers here are still coping with floods from May through July that left at least 127 people dead nationwide and caused widespread destruction of crops and property.

Many residents of this remote area in northern Bangladesh are aware that their condition is caused by an iodine deficiency, but they cannot afford to buy iodised salt.

The government ordered in 1989 that all salt be iodised, but salt lacking the essential element — of which the human body requires at least 150 micrograms a day — is cheaper.

And shopowners have alleged that many salt packets are falsely label-

led as iodised.

Iodine helps produce thyroxine in the thyroid gland for overall physical development, growth and body maintenance. An iodine deficiency causes the thyroid to swell as a coping mechanism, doctors say.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says about 70 per cent of Bangladesh's 110 million people suffer from iodine deficiency-related problems, and 36 million sufferers have goitres. However, only 8.8 per cent of the goitres are visible.

Goitres, which UNICEF says are a "physical deformation or disability" rather than a disease, can cause respiratory problems, nervous disabilities, deafness and mental impairment.

An estimated 6.2 million Bangladeshis are

mentally handicapped to varying degrees because of iodine deficiencies, the organisation said.

Sufferers cannot work properly, costing Bangladesh some \$25 million annually in lost productivity, UNICEF added.

Tohar Sheikh 76, looked weak and helpless as he sought treatment to get rid of the large tumour-like growth on his throat.

"I was struck with a goitre 12 years ago and got some relief after a UNICEF team gave me an injection... but then it grew again," he said.

Ten-year-old Tasirun was depressed after she discovered the abnormal growth of her thyroid, and her family is convinced she will have a goitre for the rest of her life.

Some residents said they had not known that iodine prevented goitres,

while several said they were too poor to buy a packet of iodised salt, which costs taka 11 (30 cents).

Muhammad Azizur Rahman, secretary of a local village council, said the villagers got some relief after UNICEF opened a medical camp in the mid-1980s, but since then there had been no supplies or treatment.

"How can you expect these people to buy iodised salt when they have difficulty in getting two square meals a day?" he said, adding that they used less costly non-iodised salt.

Huq said the area's wealthier inhabitants were free from the disease and the only answer was sustained government-sponsored treatment.

However, "there is no medicine in stock now to treat goitre patients."



Bangladesh — Swelling of the thyroid gland (goitre) is a visible sign of iodine deficiency. Iodine helps produce thyroxine in the thyroid gland for overall physical development, growth and body maintenance.

One of world's leading ebola experts claims possible cure

By Beth Duff-Brown
The Associated Press

KINSHASA, Zaire — The note to the doctor simply reads, "this postcard comes to you with gratitude." It is signed by seven people.

They are the last seven survivors of the ghastly ebola virus that claimed 233 lives and sent shivers of fear around the world. By the end of the month, the World Health Organisation (WHO) expects to declare the epidemic over.

These final victims lived, according to Zairian doctors, due to an experimental treatment in which they were given transfusions of blood from previous ebola survivors, slowly bringing down the fever that had forced blood to ooze through the eyes and pores of others more seriously stricken.

"Now we think that we have some proof that this transfusion was effective because we have seven successful cases of ebola fever who survived," said Dr. Jean-Jacques Muyembe Tatum, a leading virologist who helped to identify the ebola virus 19 years ago.

WHO's African headquarters in neighbouring Congo last week issued a statement saying it was too early to call the treatment a cure.

"We know that other sick people who were not subject to this treatment recovered their health through other methods," said Barakanfite Deog-

ratia, director of the WHO Disease Control Unit in Brazzaville.

But the turnaround in these seven patients was reason for optimism among doctors and researchers in Kikwit, the city 360 kilometres east of Kinshasa where the outbreak this spring was concentrated.

"When we did the transfusions, there was a dramatic change, so we feel that we really have hope," said Dr. Mungala Kipasa, a public health specialist at Kikwit General Hospital. "Everybody is out of the hospital and everybody is doing fine."

WHO won't proclaim the outbreak officially over until Aug. 24, which would be 12 weeks since the last known case of ebola and four times its incubation period.

The last eight victims of ebola, including two who were already comatose, were given a blood preparation from other survivors in early June.

One of the women died, Dr. Kipasa said, because she was already in poor health and arrived too late.

The last of the seven survivors left the hospital July 31.

The doctors had taken blood from most of the 56 other ebola survivors, tested it to make sure it was free of the AIDS virus and determined which convalescents had developed the strongest ebola antigens.

Blood samples related to the new treatment have

been sent to the Atlanta-based Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and prevention for further study, but evaluating the effectiveness of the treatment would take months, said CDC spokesman Bob Howard.

Dr. Muyembe, during an interview in Kinshasa earlier this week, acknowledged that the treatment has raised questions, but desperate times, he said, called for desperate measures.

"Ebola fever is a new disease. We have no treatment, no vaccine and a mortality rate of 80 per cent," said Dr. Muyembe, who coordinated the international team of researchers who swarmed Kikwit after the outbreak. "If you are a physician and you see so many patients dying, what do you do?"

Dr. Yves Guimard, an infectious disease specialist from the institute of tropical medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, has been working with the team in Kikwit for two months.

When asked if he believed the treatment was indeed a cure, he would only say there were still too many unanswered questions. Had the virus become less virulent by the time it struck its last victims? Were those victims in better health than previous ones?

"These are all the questions that are still unanswered and must be answered before we can say there is a cure," Dr.

Guimard said.

All of the doctors said regardless of whether the treatment will turn out to be a cure, they must now concentrate on preventing another outbreak.

The latest strain of the mysterious virus, named for the Ebola River village where the virus was first identified after killing 300 people in 1976, was not airborne but highly contagious.

Many people died because they did not heed the warning of health officials who criticised the tradition of washing the bodies of loved ones before burial.

"What we have to do is change the behaviour of the people," Dr. Kipasa said.

Although highly critical of the government response during the peak of the outbreak in May, which consisted of roadblocks and quarantines, instead of more doctors and better equipment, Dr. Muyembe has softened his stance.

He said he met with President Mobutu Sese Seko and told him that without proper precautions and community education, the next ebola outbreak could reach the capital of six million people.

Mobutu, he said, promised that would not happen.

"I'm convinced that this time, the government was really shaken by Ebola," Dr. Muyembe said. "It's a promise I hope he's going to keep."

Witch-hunting among British doctors

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's National Health Service (NHS), beset by patient complaints, long hospital queues, dwindling funds and monumental blunders, has appealed to its doctors to blow the whistle on incompetent colleagues.

Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell was loath to call it a "witch hunt."

But, he said, "it is important that there are the necessary safeguards in place to protect patients."

"This means doctors monitoring the standards of their colleagues' professional performance and raising issues of concern at the earliest possible stage before the patients are put at any risk."

"We are fortunate in this country to have doctors who are the envy of the world," said Dorrell. "However, for various reasons, some doctors do not always keep their professional knowledge up to scratch throughout their careers."

He said his ministry would be setting up a 24-hour hotline to receive anonymous tips on suspected incompetent doctors.

It would also incorporate a specific reference in doctors' NHS contracts pertaining to their "duty" to denounce colleagues deemed not to be up to snuff.

Professional sanctions, and even dismissal from the NHS, have not been ruled out, said Dorrell.

The ministry's proposals have placed the British medical profession in a delicate position. It cannot support incompetence, but neither can it encourage its members to inform on one another.

"You would hardly expect us to be enthusiastic about this," said Mac Armstrong, secretary of the British Medical Association. "It is a sad fact, and it will be very difficult to do. But we must create an atmosphere in which doctors can be helped to improve their performance."

Incompetence is not, said Armstrong, rampant among doctors. Rather, the NHS report that prompted the actions stemmed from "a very tiny number of very tragic cases two years ago."

"In the cases which caused this inquiry, the doctors were actually ill. The things that make doctors incompetent are very rarely malice. It is much more likely that the doctor is over-worked, over-stressed, under-trained, badly managed, or, in fact ill."

Patients themselves

appeared not to be enthusiastic about what is becoming known unofficially as a "whistle-blowers' charter."

"These proposals seem to forget that it is a management responsibility to monitor staff performance and assist those who need additional help," said Steve Pickles, Patients Association spokesman.

"The measures would be seen as a draconian addition to the disciplinary procedures, rather than an aid to improving services," he said. "Problems are more likely to be caused by misunderstandings between patients and health care professionals rather than technical incompetence."

The proposals are also a means for Dorrell, appointed health secretary in last month's cabinet reshuffle, to seize the initiative in his new brief, which usually dominates the front pages for only two reasons: unpopular hospital closures for money reasons, and spectacular — and increasingly frequent — medical blunders.

Within less than one month, the NHS had to deal with the following:

A substitute doctor doing medical analyses for several hospitals, spread panic with a litany of false cancer diagnoses, necessitating the call-back of dozens of patients for re-testing.

In Scarborough, northern England, 21 patients were anaesthetised with equipment that had been used on a tuberculosis patient and not sterilised first.

An 86-year-old man had a heart attack in a hospital toilet, and remained there for 30 hours before staff found him.

Another heart patient died after waiting for treatment for five hours on a hospital trolley in a corridor.

A doctor treated a 16-month-old girl's head pains with a common pain-killer. Seeing no improvement, her mother took her to a hospital emergency room, where a brain tumour was discovered requiring three operations.

A six-year-old girl scheduled for heart surgery in Birmingham had her operation cancelled three times because no hospital bed was available.

In Southampton, same story: a three-year-old polio-victim needing an operation to ease his breathing had his operation cancelled twice, before a bed was finally found after front-page nationwide publicity.

Vitamin A helps AIDS babies

By Lauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vitamin A might be an inexpensive way to ease the illnesses suffered by infants with the AIDS virus, new research suggests.

Even otherwise healthy people who lack sufficient Vitamin A are vulnerable to numerous diseases and even death. Whether administering Vitamin A benefits people with enough of the substance in their diet already is controversial.

But the first study of Vitamin A in HIV-infected babies, in a South African hospital whose patients don't lack the nutrient, found moderately large doses helped infants fight off Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)-related illnesses, especially dangerous diarrhoea, Natal University researchers report. The study was published in Wednesday's American Journal of Public Health.

The results look "very plausible" and suggest "that Vitamin A might even have applicability in the United States," said Dr. Reynaldo Martorell, a public health expert at Emory University who independently reviewed the study.

Doctors in Durban, South Africa, separated 118 babies born to HIV-infected women into two groups. Half the babies received doses of Vitamin A at ages 1 to 3 months, 6 to 9 months and 12 to 15 months. The other babies got placebos. Eighty-five of the infants were later found to be HIV-infected. They were similarly distributed between the vitamin and placebo groups.

All the children who received Vitamin A supplements, regardless of HIV status, had fewer illnesses, from rashes to respiratory

infections. The vitamin-treated babies had 152 cases of illness; the untreated, 177.

But the Vitamin A made a much larger difference in HIV-infected children who suffered diarrhoea, a major child killer, said study author Anna Coutoudis, a Natal University paediatrics professor.

The vitamin supplements reduced diarrhoea cases by 49 per cent among HIV-infected babies and lowered diarrhoea cases that last seven or more days by 56 per cent, Coutoudis reported. Also, Diarrhoea-caused hospital stays were 77 per cent lower among supplemented HIV babies.

In babies who did not have HIV, the Vitamin A made no difference in diarrhoea, a common illness among children in developing countries.

The study followed the babies just through age 18 months, so Coutoudis couldn't say if Vitamin A would help them live longer.

Currently, doctors have little to offer HIV-infected children, Martorell said, and drugs that are available are expensive and have often-severe side effects.

"If Vitamin A were to be effective, then it would provide a cheaper means of trying to lessen the burden of HIV infection," he said.

But he cautioned that the South African babies took high enough doses that they had to be closely monitored — because too much Vitamin A is highly toxic. No one should try Vitamin A supplementation for HIV on their own — and Coutoudis' findings must be replicated before doctors routinely offer it to AIDS babies, he cautioned.

ANSWERS

BRUSH UP YOUR MEMORY

1. Sophia Cathedral, Kiev, the oldest church in Russia.
2. Belvedere Palace, Vienna, Austria.
3. St. Peter's, Rome, with Bernini's colonnade.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Originally the day when employers gave servants gift boxes.
2. Caspar, Balasar and Melchior.
3. Chief Cashier of the Bank of England.
4. V-J (Day of Japan's surrender in World War II).
5. Family.
6. Joyous song. 7. Sweden.

Scientists find genetic link to male infertility

By Lori Valigra
Reuters

BOSTON — A new study links a genetic defect — rather than infection or other factors — to infertility in otherwise healthy men.

"In the past, male infertility was thought to be caused by infections, certain varicose veins around the testes or immune problems," said David Page, associate director of the Whitehead/MIT Centre for Genome Research who led the study, which was published in the journal Nature Genetics.

"This is the first clear-cut case of infertility in otherwise healthy males that shows a basis in the

genes," Mr. Page told Reuters. "Our findings will help some couples get a definitive answer about the reasons for their infertility and may eventually lead to new directions in infertility therapy."

The researchers studied the Y Chromosome, which determines the male gender, in 89 men who have the most severe form of infertility called azoospermia — the complete inability to make sperm.

Twelve of the men in the study were missing a small fragment of a specific portion of the Y Chromosome, but were otherwise healthy.

The fathers of all the men in the study had in-

tact Y Chromosomes, as did 90 fertile men in a comparative study.

Mr. Page and his team found that 13 per cent of men with azoospermia had a defective Y Chromosome, which was missing a single gene known as DAZ.

However, the scientists said they still cannot conclude whether the DAZ gene alone is required to make sperm. There may be other unknown genes like it that perform this function.

Azoospermia is a newly arising defect, meaning it was not present in fathers and does not run in families. Mr. Page said scientists still do not understand how the Y Chromo-

somes becomes defective.

"This is more common than we initially realised," Mr. Page said. "One in every 8,000 newborn boys has such a freshly arising defect."

He credited the Human Genome Project, an international research effort largely sponsored by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, with laying the groundwork for the research.

In 1992 Mr. Page used human genome funds to develop a physical map of the Y Chromosome that in turn helped locate the defect linked to infertility.

The only other map is of Chromosome 21, which causes Down Syndrome when it is defective.

The unthinkable is becoming inevitable — three new 'nationally pure' states in the Balkans

By Tony Barber

THE DESOLATE scenes are all too familiar — civilians bombed by artillery, United Nations peacekeepers seized as human shields, tens of thousands of refugees on the move, and yet another distinctive feature of Balkan civilisation cut to pieces in a matter of days. In terms of its human consequences, Croatia's recapture of the rebel Krajina Serb region has little different from the Serb onslaughts against Croatia in 1991 and Bosnia since 1992.

Yet the more immediate significance of Croatia's success is that it may bring a speedier settlement of the conflicts that have torn apart former Yugoslavia for the past four years. Suddenly, there is a grim clarity to the maps that show which nationality is in control of which areas. Minority communities, be they the Serbs of Krajina or the Muslims of the Drina valley in eastern Bosnia, are being wiped out, never to return to complicate the ambitions of mystical nationalists.

It is possible now to imagine a peace that would be based on the principle of defining three 'nationally pure' states: Serbia for the Serbs, Croatia for the Croats, and a truncated Bosnia for the Muslims. Since it would be a peace that would violate the most fundamental values of tolerance that Western democracies purport to uphold, it will be a while before we hear our leaders talking in public about such a settlement. But the time will come, and the catch-

phrase to watch out for will be: "It is the best peace attainable."

There is, of course, a horrible logic to this argument. Forced transfers of population have been the world's preferred way of cooling trouble spots this century. In some cases they appear to have worked, though at great human cost in the short-term. After a two-year war, the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne provided for compulsory exchange of the Turkish and Greek minorities of Greece and Turkey. Since then, the two countries may have continued to detest each other, but they have not fought a major war.

Equally, the removal of more than 10 million Germans from Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union after the World War II was an immense tragedy, in that it put to the flame centuries of German civilisation in eastern Europe. Yet with the perspective of time we can see that Poland and the Czech Republic, emptied of their restive German minorities, are more stable states. It is surely no coincidence that, outside former Yugoslavia, one of the most tense areas in Europe is the Romanian province of Transylvania, where a discontented Hungarian minority is struggling to assert its identity.

In the case of former Yugoslavia, the establishment of "nationally pure" states is a process that has gathered pace this year but is not yet complete. Rump Yugoslavia, which consists of Serbia and Montenegro, has a population of 10.5

million, of whom only 70 per cent are Serbs and Montenegrins. There are large minorities of Albanians and Hungarians, who fear that the violent redistribution of nationalities in Croatia and Bosnia is a remorseless process that must extend one day to their own communities.

The same threat hangs over Macedonia, where more than 20 per cent of the two million people are ethnic Albanians, and whose Slav majority is not even recognised as a distinct Macedonian nationality by Greece, Bulgaria and militants in Serbia. If, as

seems likely, the conflicts in Bosnia and Croatia are to be settled on the basis of allocating three separate areas for Serbs, Croats and Muslims, this will increase the likelihood of warfare and expulsions of minorities in Macedonia and the Albanian-populated southern Serbian province of Kosovo.

Croatia's right-wing nationalist government can argue with some justice that the Krajina Serbs, a community descended from warriors who defended the Habsburg Empire's borders against Turkish attack, have not been expelled

from their native areas but left of their own will. President Franjo Tudjman had committed himself to granting some degree of autonomy to the Krajina Serbs once the war was over.

The fact that tens of thousands of Krajina Serbs chose to flee their homes, even before Croatia's armed forces completed their victory, gives a good idea of what fate the Serbs expected at the hands of their conquerors. Memories of the barbarities committed by Croatia's Nazi-backed puppet state in the Forties are still vivid. Even if the Krajina Serbs' fears of

a repeat slaughter were exaggerated, they saw little point in staying in a state that trumpets the Croatian national identity as its core value.

For the Bosnian Muslims, the future does not look promising. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims have little prospect of returning to the areas of northern and eastern Bosnia from which Serb forces have expelled them since April 1992. Meanwhile, the south-western region of Bosnia-Herzegovina remains firmly under the control of the Bosnian Croats, armed and funded by Zagreb.

Nominally, the Muslims and Croats of Bosnia are allied in a federation that is in turn allied to Croatia. But Mr. Tudjman, like his Serbian rival, President Slobodan Milosevic, displays little enthusiasm for reconstructing an independent Bosnia in its pre-war borders. On the contrary, his private conversations and scribbles indicate a desire to redraw the borders of the Yugoslav successor state, dismantling Bosnia while adding territory to Croatia and Serbia.

The United States, practically the only country with

some influence over Croatian policies, appears not to have anticipated that to strengthen Croatia as a way of enhancing Croatian power at the expense of the Bosnian Muslims. As a result of Croatia's victory over the Krajina Serbs, the Muslims are penned between a resurgent Croatian state and a Bosnian Serb region that, despite the current dispute between Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Mr. Milosevic, will inevitably enter Serbia's orbit.

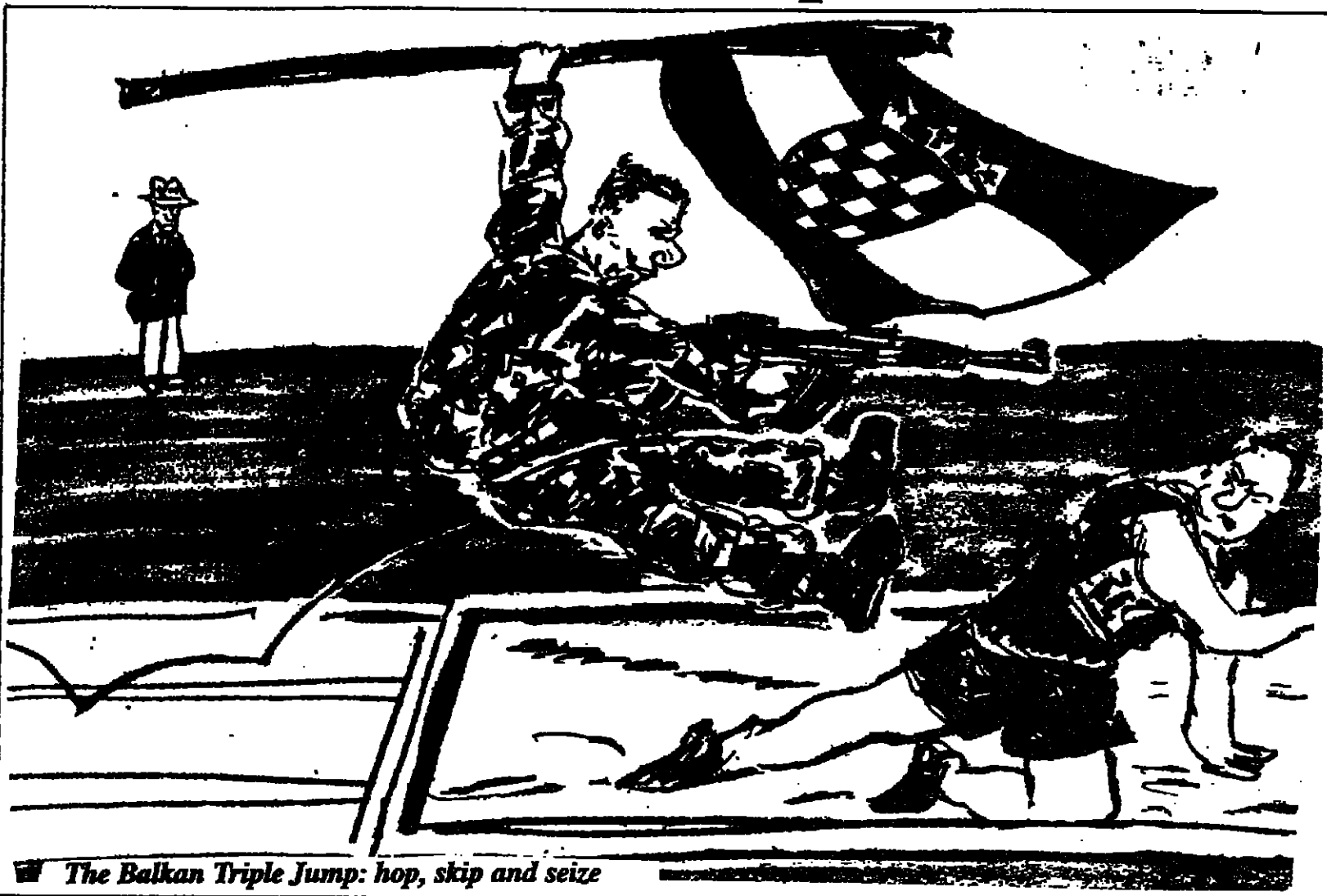
If the U.S. and the European Union (EU) are genuinely committed to restoring Bosnia's integrity, there are various forms of pressure that could be used against Croatia and Serbia. Economic sanctions, above all the denial of fresh credits, could be maintained against Serbia. The EU could refuse to consider Croatia as a potential member and deny it a trade accord. But yesterday Croatia showed what it thought of the EU, when the government said it would have nothing more to do with EU mediator Carl Bildt.

It seems more likely that the West will eventually acquiesce in a Yugoslav settlement involving revision of borders. Existing Western-Russian peace proposals come close to acknowledging the need for such a settlement, since they envisage confederal links between Croatia and the part of Bosnia allocated to Muslims and Croats; and between Serbia and the part allocated to the Bosnian Serbs.

Some British politicians who specialise in foreign policy have long contended privately that borders will have to change because of the enormous scale of the population movements sparked by the Yugoslav wars. It would appear a defeat for Western principles. But it is in reality more less than that, if you do not intervene decisively in a war, you cannot expect to control its outcome.

The Independent

Peace with a terrible price



The Balkan Triple Jump: hop, skip and seize

Iraq pledges cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

In an interview with the Washington Times, U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry said the United States would defend Jordan if it was attacked by Iraq.

A U.S. Defence Department official said warplanes from the U.S. aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, sent to the East Mediterranean after the defections, will join U.S.-Jordanian war games over the next 10 days.

The exercises involving 2,000 Marines as well as Jordanian air, army, navy and special forces had been planned for months but the decision to involve the Roosevelt aircraft was taken in the last two days, the official said.

President Saddam ordered dozens of security officials arrested after the defection of Gen. Hassan, his son-in-law, including the guards that refused to follow him into Jordan, an opposition group said.

Those arrested included members of special services who were close to General Hassan and his brother Saddam Kamel Hassan, who commanded the guard unit

responsible for the Iraqi president's protection.

The arrests occurred on Aug. 8, after the two brothers, who were married to President Saddam's daughters, fled with their wives to Jordan, according to the Iraqi National Congress, based in London.

The director of cabinet at the Military Industrialisation Organisation, Gen. Hashem Al Takriti, was also arrested along with his assistants, as well as about 120 department heads at the organisation, the INC said in a statement.

Those who preferred to go back to Baghdad after escorting Gen. Hassan to Jordan without knowing it was a defection were also arrested on their return, the statement said.

President Saddam warned his ministers that they were not above the law following the defection.

The Iraqi leader, who is also prime minister, told his cabinet that "to prevent any risk of deviation" they should from now on "respect the letter of the law."

"You are called on to not ask for unusual authority except for determined tasks and

for a limited period," President Saddam told his ministers. "You must respect the letter of the law ... for the state to recover its prestige."

He vowed to take measures against betrayal and corruption during a speech last Friday in which he accused Gen. Hassan of embezzling millions of dollars before he defected.

A senior Syrian official meanwhile urged the Iraqi people to overthrow President Saddam and punish all his henchmen, whether inside Iraq or outside.

The call to arms was made by Faysal Al Sayegh, director-general and chief editor of the official Syrian News Agency SANA, in an article that appeared aimed against Gen. Hassan.

"When the people take over they will punish all those whose hands were stained with the blood whether they were inside or outside Iraq," the article in the official daily Al Thawra said.

It did not mention by name Gen. Hassan.

"The change should not be made by Saddam's men. It should be made by a popular revolution which will uproot all the symbols of the regime," Mr. Sayegh said.

Croats mass against Serbs

(Continued from page 1)

parties in Bosnia and offers key concessions to the Serbs if they accept.

Questioned over the last few days in a number of European capitals, the diplomats disclosed key details of the U.S. plan. It contains many elements of previous peace efforts which have so far had little success.

The plan includes possible territorial trade-offs within Bosnia and the threat of NATO air strikes.

The proposals have so far met a wary response from Bosnia's Muslim-led government, which fears too many concessions to the Serbs. The Bosnian Serbs carved out a separatist "republic" after Bosnia declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1992.

Senior U.S. diplomats met Bosnian and Croatian ministers in a fresh attempt to broker a negotiated settlement but the peace initiative was already coming under criticism.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke met Croatian Foreign Minister

Mate Granic near the Adriatic port of Split on Tuesday and also held talks with Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohammad Sacirbey.

He was to meet Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on Wednesday and was expected in Belgrade on Thursday for talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

U.S. officials have said that for the time being Bosnian Serbs would be locked out of the process, until they showed signs that they want to do a deal.

In Geneva meanwhile, European Union mediator Carl Bildt, who was heading for Sarajevo to meet Bosnian government leaders, held secret talks with Momcilo Krajisnik, a senior Bosnian Serb leader. U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg was also present.

Diplomats had no details of what was discussed in Geneva but at the very least it appeared to be a back-drop channel to the Bosnia Serb leadership during the new round of efforts to strike a peace deal.

U.S. dollar rises in Amman

(Continued from page 1)

Governor Mohammad Nabulsi has often issued statements rejecting all rumours and assuring the public that no devaluation of the dinar is in the making.

As the dollar slowly picked up over the past week, Dr. Nabulsi was quoted in the local press as rejecting speculation that the decline in the value of the dinar against the greenback was somehow tied to a devaluation.

Dr. Nabulsi noted that he had been in office for 18 years and "every month we hear" rumours that a devaluation of the dinar was coming (see page 9).

Dr. Nabulsi himself and other CBJ officials have blamed moneychangers and speculators whom they did not name for fuelling the rumour mill to serve their interests. They have also warned that those who spread rumours with speculative aims involving the national currency could be prosecuted.

Necessary tips for aspiring motorists

By Marian Nimry

MY NIECE, Zein, went 'thoom' the other day describing her already growing passion for her favourite method of transport: "The car." She will grow up fascinated by this wonderful machine that will take her 'bye bye' for many years to come. When she becomes a teenager she will start wishing that her 18th birthday could somehow be advanced for the purpose (among other things) of obtaining her driver's license; the symbol for social status, maturity and freedom.

Little will she know, then, how to read the road signs. I don't mean the ones that are cemented on the

sides of roads, the ones that nobody adheres to, but other signs: the ones they never teach her at driving schools. These will be the ones she will have to learn the hard way.

A yellow car with the sign "Taxi" on it, is, to say the least, dangerous. Be careful, chances are that even if it is going 100 kms an hour, it may pull over at any second to pick up passengers. Zein will have to be ready to slam the brakes at any second.

She will have to watch out for pedestrians for they have a death wish. They can spot an innocent driver a mile away, and they will wait. The moment that the car is a metre or so away from them, then will be the

time for them to jump in front of it, striding along calmly with a smug smile on their faces. Once again, my advice to her will be to slam the brakes.

On the other hand, driving school cars and cars with Saudi license plates are highly unpredictable. She will have to keep a watchful eye on them and to be ready for anything.

If she happens to see a car crawling along as if the driver was looking for an address, then the driver is probably very old. Her best move will be to carefully ease her way around him/her and by no means honk the horn. This type usually has a bad heart and may otherwise go off the road. Contrary to what some

people may tell her, a red light is not for revving, up her car and yellow does not mean "Go". She is not a Formula-One driver and the others are not competitors. On the other hand, from a distance, a yellow light just turned from green is not an invitation to go as fast as possible before it turns red.

If she is calmly waiting for the lights to change and she feels a truck edging closer, chances are that if she looks sideways then she will see a man. He will be gawking and trying to see as much of her legs as possible. She could give the man an angry look and he may look away, or she could patiently philosophise about the fact that things will

never change.

When she pulls into a gas station to fill her car with gas and she sees a man smoking a cigarette while pumping a highly flammable liquid into her car; my advice for her is not to panic; to relax. He knows what he is doing.

Finally, she is to warn people who ride with her that she is really a polite little girl and that the language that she may use on the road is not really the language she uses at home.

The writer is a student of English literature at the University of Jordan. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Saudi leaders meet Kabariti

(Continued from page 1)

Asked about the possibility of a Jordanian-Saudi summit, the foreign minister said this was an issue that had to be decided by the two monarchs. He expressed hope that the two leaders, who used to meet quite often in the past, would renew their meetings.

On the situation in Iraq, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan was concerned over the plight of the Iraqis, whose country is under international sanctions since August 1990, and the "dangers which pose a

threat to Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity with adverse impact on the Arab Nation."

Mr. Kabariti was expected to return to Amman early Thursday.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, whose country's relations with Jordan were also strained in the Gulf crisis, was meanwhile quoted as saying that Jordanian-Kuwaiti ties were also improving (see page 12).

Inter-Korean ties feared heading for freeze

By Lee Su-Wan

Reuters

SEOUL — By releasing a South Korean rice ship and crew it was holding on-spy charges, North Korea has rescued a food aid deal with Seoul.

But diplomats and analysts have said the episode has further strained

ties between the cold war rivals.

"The incident further deepened mistrust between the north and I doubt their relations will change for the better in the near future," a Western diplomat said.

"The North Koreans had no intention to have a dialogue with the South. They are talking with the South just to get rice. All signs show a likely halt in dialogue once rice shipments to the North are completed."

The 9,400-tonne Samsun Venus and its 21 crew members were held for about a week by the North after Pyongyang said a sailor took photographs of Chongjin port, where the ship had docked to unload 5,000 tonnes of rice aid.

On Sunday, Pyongyang released the freighter and its crew following three days of talks in Beijing during which Seoul expressed regret over the incident, assured the North it would not happen again and promised to resume rice shipments.

Seoul officials warned Seoul would consider scrapping rice aid to the North unless the ship and crew were freed quickly.

Under an accord signed in Beijing in June, South

Korea is supplying 150,000 tonnes of free rice to the North to ease what Seoul says is a chronic food shortage and to improve ties. Half has been shipped to the North already and the deliveries will be completed by the end of this month.

South Korea had hoped rice talks would lead to steps aimed at ending confrontation with the North on the divided peninsula, the last theatre of the cold war.

The seizure of the rice ship prompted demands in South Korea that President Kim Young-Sam's government be more careful and less hasty about improving ties with the North.

"Far from receiving a thank you note for providing a considerable amount of free rice to the north, our ship and crew have been detained... and we have been helplessly put into a defensive position in South-North contacts," the Chosun Ilbo newspaper said in an editorial last week.

Kim Chang-Soon, head of the Institute for North Korean Studies, said the North did not appear ready to accept any of Seoul's peace overtures.

"President Kim's government has been under fire for inconsistency in dealing with North Korea."

Thousands of Turks on pilgrimage liberal Muslim

HACIBEKTAS, Turkey (R) — Tens of thousands of minority Alevi Muslim in Turkey, asserting their identity after centuries as underdogs, flocked to a dusty town on Wednesday for the start of their biggest ever pilgrimage.

More than 100,000 Alevi were expected in the central town of Hacibektas for a festival of dancing, singing and poetry at the tomb of a 13th century Islamic mystic, organisers said.

The Alevi, followers of a Turkish liberal version of Shi'ism, have long been scorned by the orthodox Sunni majority for alleged heresy and the use of wine and dance during

worship. Tensions spilled over last March when 17 people died in riots in Istanbul after unknown gunmen opened fire on an Alevi coffeehouse. The riots rocked the country.

President Suleyman Demirel avoided addressing demands from the estimated 10-15 million Alevi to be brought on a par with the country's Sunnis.

"What is the point of creating animosity between Sunnis and Alevi?" he told the three-day pilgrimage's opening ceremony. "Everyone is equal," he said.

Alevi calls for government aid to build places of worship and permission to teach

Alevism in schools — rights granted to Sunnis — have grown since 37 people were killed in an Islamist arson attack at an Alevi festival in the town of Sivas in 1993.

"For years the state has refused to recognise the Alevi identity, just like with the Kurds. But now our voice is rising, we're showing our force," Hacibektas Mayor Mustafa Ozcivan said.

"Things have changed since the Sivas massacre. People are coming here in greater numbers every year," he told Reuters.

Many pilgrims wore red headbands to commemorate the battle of Kerbala,

CBJ to allow banks to lend in foreign currency

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Banking sources said Wednesday new regulations under consideration by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) would allow commercial banks to grant loans in foreign currencies for development projects.

According to the sources, the move would help local commercial banks to benefit from an expected high demand for financing in foreign currency for infrastructure and industrial projects being planned by the government and the private sector in the wake of the state of peace that has been achieved between Jordan and Israel.

Particularly relevant to these projects are a series of economy-related laws that are currently under study by Parliament and expected to be enacted before the Middle East and North Africa economic summit scheduled to be held in late October, the sources noted.

The projects, in which the private sector is expected to have a major role, are expected to be formally presented and discussed at the summit, which will bring together government leaders, businessmen and economic experts from all over the world.

According to reports in the local press, CBJ Governor Mohammad Nabulsi believes that allowing local commercial banks, which have high liquidity both in local and foreign currencies after the recent adoption of liberal foreign exchange regulations, to extend loans in foreign currency would benefit them significantly since they would be able to use idle currency and replace foreign financiers.

Foreign currency loans will not be available for importing consumer goods.

Bankers noted that the CBJ plan, expected to be formally announced soon, has been following a consistent policy of liberalising banking regulations, particularly those related to foreign currency dealings, while keeping a tight watch on enforcement.

"The proposal sends a strong signal of an increasing confidence in the monetary situation of Jordan," said a banking executive, noting that the CBJ recently moved to make the Jordanian dinar fully convertible in line with the international commitment to the International Fund (IMF).

Another move adopted by the CBJ is to raise the capital of local commercial banks to a minimum of JD 20 million.

Kuwait deputies attack debt plan as favouring rich

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's opposition accused the government Tuesday of seeking to enrich politically powerful debtors at state expense by demanding easier repayment terms for \$20 billion in bad loans.

"The government's solution is crooked because it will burden the state budget," member of parliament Abdullah Al Nibari said, recommending rejection of a government bill aimed at burying a debt scandal that has enfeebled the economy for years.

"The big debtors are the ones who affect political decisions," he told a parliamentary debate on the bill.

"If we approved this plan, the state would forfeit trust and dignity," said MP Sharea Al Ajmi.

Bankers say the 10,000 corporate and individual debtors include government officials, some of whom owe millions of dollars. An official list of debtors has never been published.

Opposition MPs recommended making debtors pay according to existing settlement terms set by a 1993 law aimed at solving the economy's most intractable problem.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan denied MPs' accusations of favouritism. He reiterated that the government's only aim in seeking an

easing of the terms was to prevent economic damage that might result from debtors rushing to sell off assets.

The chamber is due to vote on the bill before Sept. 6, the repayment deadline for those who owe the bulk of the debt. Under existing terms the so-called big debtors are required to pay about 2.3 billion dinars (\$7.6 billion) by that date.

While debtors owing small amounts have already complied with the 1993 law and paid up, the larger debtors have yet to pay.

Economist and bankers have said the plan is lenient to some of the world's wealthiest borrowers and would endanger economic reforms aimed at reducing reliance on the state.

The debt is owed to the government, which bought out commercial banks' holdings of the dubious loans in 1992.

The debt derives partly from Iraq's 1990-91 occupation and partly from the 1982 crash of the now defunct Souq Al Manakh informal source, which grew dizzy in the 1970s as Kuwaitis borrowed from banks to speculate on new Gulf investment opportunities.

The collapse left a trail of entangled debt. Kuwaiti banks were badly affected by the crash.

Dollar seen heading for 100 yen

TOKYO (Agencies) — With Tokyo's foreign exchange market dazed by the dollar's surge, some dealers said Wednesday that a climb above 100 yen is now in prospect.

"Many dealers see today's rise as only the beginning," said Hiroyuki Saijo, vice president of Chase Manhattan Bank N.A. in Tokyo.

Concerted action by the central banks of the United States, Japan and Germany overnight set off a dollar-buying clamour in Tokyo, with dealers who had become used to treating such intervention simply as a chance to make profits now fearful of missing a rally.

The U.S. currency steamed into the 99 yen level for the first time in six months, touching 99.05 yen Wednesday compared with 94.85/90 yen late Tuesday in Tokyo and a 96.95/05 yen close in New York.

"Whether you won or lost in the recent rally depended on whether you believed in the monetary authorities' strong determination (to push up the dollar) or not," said Kazunori Iida, deputy general manager at Nishio Iwai Corp.

"(Their) credibility has been strengthened further after the overnight intervention," he said.

In overnight trade, the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed), the Bank of Japan (BOJ) and Germany's Bundesbank bought dollars for marks and yen. The Swiss National Bank also bought dollars for Swiss francs in the coordin-

ated move.

"The Bundesbank's participation was unexpected and shows strongly that the authorities were not satisfied with a dollar rebound to around 94 to 95 yen," said Tetsuhiro Tomata, deputy general manager at the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

The previous coordinated dollar-buying action on Aug. 2 involved only the Fed and the BOJ.

Officials in Tokyo also reiterated their determination to see a stronger dollar.

The dollar is still in the process of the "orderly reversal" targeted by the Group of Seven (G-7) nations, said an official at Japan's ministry of finance.

A senior BOJ official said the G-7 nations' resolve was being accepted by the market, adding: "The mood in the market is definitely changing. The credibility of the dollar is growing stronger in the financial markets, not just in the currency market."

Many dealers said the 100 yen barrier was already within reach as they failed to find any sellers of dollars.

Dealers also said the strong resolve of the monetary authorities was making them wary of being dollar-short, forcing them to keep buying back the dollar after profit-taking.

Technical charts showed no signs of the dollar's bull run coming to a halt, as its steep climb has broken through all major technical resistance points.

"There's nothing to stop the dollar — it's broken

through all resistances and gone above all trend lines," said Yoshinori Matsushita, chief manager at Mitsubishi Bank.

Although most dealers agreed a dollar at 100 yen may be imminent, they doubted it would rise much above this level.

They said failure by the Japanese government to come up with additional measures to back up financial deregulation steps announced on Aug. 2 may lead to disappointment, and inhibit overseas investment by Japanese institutions.

Some dealers also said Washington and Tokyo would not tolerate a dollar above 100 yen, as a stronger dollar would hurt both Japanese importers and U.S. exporters.

Other analysts in Tokyo said Wednesday that central bank intervention to support the dollar may have only a limited impact as fundamentals undermining the currency persist.

"In my view, this is not a reverse Plaza accord," said Shunsuke Motani, economist with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, referring to the 1985 agreement between the United States, Japan, Germany, France and Britain to push down the dollar.

"Japan has taken the world economy hostage to its problems," he told AFX-Asia, an AFP-affiliated financial news wire.

"I think 100 yen to the dollar is their target for now," Mr. Motani told AFX-Asia. "In September, I expect the yen to strengthen back towards the 97-96 level, or even 95 yen, depending on how far the dollar rises in this rally."

The joint intervention Tuesday was aimed at taking advantage of the fact that Japan usually records a capital outflow in August, ahead of a sizeable inflow in

September for the half-year book closing, he said. This capital outflow naturally boosts demand for dollars.

"Although the Bundesbank was probably the instigator of the intervention, the Fed and Bank of Japan appeared to intervene all the way to 97 yen," said Ronald Leven, analyst at Morgan Guaranty Trust Co.

"Ninety-five to 100 yen would be a natural target level if the purpose was to put the Japanese exporters back on a comfortable competitive footing," he added.

"However, a rising dollar may be a key component to Clinton's reelection strategy," Mr. Leven said. He noted that a stronger dollar would help underpin U.S. bonds, reducing pressure for a hike in U.S. interest rates and helping to hold the U.S. economy and markets stable through the Clinton reelection campaign.

Germany's decision to intervene despite its longstanding opposition partly reflected the strong market's adverse impact on the German economy, dealers said.

"A repo rate cut later in the week by the Bundesbank would confirm its new stance," one economist said, "although this may not occur if the dollar-market remains weak overnight."

Economists said the recent round of central bank intervention also appeared to be aimed at heading off deflationary pressures squeezing the Japanese economy.

"There can be two scenarios," Mr. Motani said. "Governments around the world have agreed with the idea of a stronger dollar as a trendline for a continued period. Or, they have agreed that the Japan crisis is harmful, and should be avoided."

"If the former stance was adopted at the G-7 Halifax Summit, then concerted intervention would continue through early 1996," he said.

Mexico's economy nosedives as crisis takes its toll

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's economy plunged deeper into recession in the second quarter as the crisis sparked by a December currency devaluation took a worse than expected toll, the Finance Ministry said late Tuesday.

In a quarterly statement delivered to Congress, it said the country's gross domestic product (GDP), which measures the total output of goods and services, fell a chilling 10.5 per cent between April and June, versus the same period last year.

That may make the situation look worse than it actually is, the ministry said, noting that the data may disguise the fact that the recession has actually bottomed out.

Nevertheless, a 10.5 per cent drop in second quarter

GDP was far bleaker than most economists had expected.

In the first quarter, when Mexico appeared to be on the brink of financial collapse before the United States stepped in with a \$20 billion rescue effort, the economy dipped 0.6 per cent — meagre by comparison.

Less than a month ago, Finance Minister Guillermo Ortiz said the second quarter slump would be around six per cent. That's more like the figure for the first six months of 1995, when the ministry said GDP fell an annual 5.8 per cent.

The depth of the recession may be a shock to Mexico's stock market, which has tended to overlook the economy's woes recently and rallied on a return of foreign

investment. But it will be no surprise to businessmen.

In recent weeks, business leaders have pestered President Ernesto Zedillo to take additional steps to ease the burden of heavy taxation and high interest rates on cash-strapped firms.

Scores of small- and medium-sized businesses have gone under in the crisis, and many more are threatened by a vicious circle of slumping sales, job losses and unpayable debts, the most powerful business chambers warned in a report last week.

Unemployment has skyrocketed and street crime in the capital has risen alarmingly this year, authorities say.

In political terms, the crisis has cost Mr. Zedillo's ruling

Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) dearly. This year it has lost three out of four state elections — an unprecedented setback in a country where it has held almost total power for more than 66 years.

The finance ministry, however, put the best possible light on the statistics. By releasing them late at night, it may have sought to prevent any knee-jerk reaction by the

country's financial markets.

The 10.5 per cent drop in second quarter GDP compares with a very strong quarter in 1994, possibly exaggerating the extent of the decline, the ministry said.

After the loss of more than half a million jobs in the early part of the year, it also said unemployment in June was no worse than in May, suggesting that "open unemployment is tending towards an

incipient stabilisation."

It noted that inflation has fallen and that the devaluation has helped Mexico turn an \$8.8 billion trade deficit in the first half of last year into a \$3.9 billion surplus this year.

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- Gnatlike fly
- Carbonated beverage
- Narrow bed
- Perfect
- Graceful horse
- Partner
- Make venerable
- Look for
- TV's Tarzan, Ron —
- Conceited
- Senility
- Russian news agency
- Long-necked bird
- Find
- Setback
- Enraged
- passu (side by side)
- Pastureland
- CA city
- Ship of the desert
- Dray
- Yale
- Elevator man
- Pretty little girl
- Liberates
- Profession
- Alliance
- Close
- Defame
- Roasting stick
- Get-up-and-go
- Oath of old
- Look forward to
- Give the — (dismiss)
- TV producer, Norman
- Musical instrument
- Exist
- Watch closely
- Christmas carols

DOWN

- "Of — and Men"
- Adored one
- Gainsay
- Fuel
- Exalt
- Trojan prince
- Algerian city
- Exactly right
- Honorable record
- Designer
- Cassini
- Mischievous child
- Harass
- Noted fur trader
- Etui
- Mineral earth
- Toodle-oo
- Start of a toast
- Wrinkles
- Papal vestment
- Surrender
- Flaxlike fiber
- High nest
- Subsequently
- Thin disk
- Garland
- Rudely terse
- Warn
- Sarcastic
- Trivial amount
- Stylish
- Steeple
- Large: pref. abbr.
- Culture base
- Support
- Errand boy
- And others: abbr.
- Cages
- Formerly
- For

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

A	B	E	D	U	R	G	E	D	C	H	I	P
H	A	L	O	N	O	O	N	E	L	A	N	E
A	B	A	C	K	W	A	R	D	G	L	A	N
B	E	N	R	O	M	E	O	R	G	A	N	
B	A	R	E									
A	R	O	U	N	D	A	B	O	U	T	W	A
G	R	O	A	T								
A	D	D	S									
F	O	E		A	P	A	R					
F	R	O	M	S	I	D	E	T	O	S	I	D
R	E	A	T	A								
S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	F	O	R	W	A
V	A	I	N									
P	L	A	T									

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"It's supposed to be really hot today, so I put all of your underwear in the freezer."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argentin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHAIR RAINY BEHALF POTENT
Answer: Why the fishermen don't take the call — HE WAS ON THE OTHER LINE

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) During this day, be sure to carry through with any plans made yesterday and be particularly careful in your activities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Put some new plan in operation during the morning and in the evening, go after personal matters which are pressing.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Pursue intimate aims this morning, but tonight, concentrate on your most secret wish. Be thoughtful of friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get much completed in the business world during this morning, but later today concentrate on personal wishes.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Use your inventive ability today, your ingenuity in handling new projects and get ahead faster. Plan how to gain greater prestige.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Handle your business affairs brilliantly during the morning, but later gain data you need from an outsider.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Discuss some new plan with your partners today and then get into the minutiae of such. Show that you are ethical and reliable.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can get many career activities completed during today which can bring fine benefits. Make right arrangements with your associates.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Early this morning make appointments of a social nature for the future and later tonight get into that workload and clear it up.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Concentrate upon home affairs this morning, but reserve this evening for simple and wholesome pleasures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get busy early today at correspondence and other communications and later enjoy your family at home.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan how best to add to your present abundance during this morning and confer with experts this evening for your success.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Andy Capp

I THOUGHT A SANDBOX WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A SHOVEL AND A PAIL, AND A HOE AND A RAKE, AND A TRACTOR AND A DUMP TRUCK...

WHERE'S THE SHOVEL AND THE PAIL, AND THE HOE AND THE RAKE, AND THE TRACTOR AND THE DUMP TRUCK?!

THE TROUBLE WITH HAVING A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING IS HOW OFTEN IT GETS FILLED UP WITH EVERYTHING ELSE

Mutt'n' Jeff

MUTT, YOU'RE FAMOUS!

WHA, WHA, WHA?

THEY'VE GOT YOUR NAME IN THE DICTIONARY!

WHERE?

RIGHT THERE! Mutt (reads), a commonplace or stupid person.

b A mongrel dog. HA! NOTICE THEY SPELLED YOUR NAME WITH A SMALL 'm'!

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Tarawneh: No labour discussions with Israel

SALEH AL Tarawneh, secretary-general of the Ministry of Labour, denied that Israel had requested Jordan for labourers. He pointed out that movement and organisation of labour was not under consideration at present and could be covered through the economic agreement between the two countries. Mr. Tarawneh said the Israeli labour market requires foreign labour in the services and agricultural sectors which are basically the two sectors where Jordanian labour is lacking. As such, Jordan is allowing Arab labourers to work in these two areas, he pointed out and added: "Jordanian labour is highly qualified to be required by Israel." The secretary general also denied Israeli press reports about sending back Jordanian labourers from Israel and stressed that there was no Jordanian labour in Israel. Israeli press has claimed that Jordanian tourists are working illegally in large numbers in the construction sector in Israel and that 43 persons were recently sent back (Al Aswaq).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THE DAY, AUGUST 17, By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

RIES: (March 21 to April 19) During this day, be a carry through with plans made yesterday and particularly careful in activities.

AURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Put some new plan for the morning in the evening, personal matters which are pressing.

EMINI: (May 21 to June 20) Pursue intimate and morning, but tonight, concentrate on your most wish. Be thoughtful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) You can be much completed in the new world during this day, but later today come on personal wishes.

EO: (July 22 to August 21) Your ingenuity in the new projects and ideas is leading you to greater prestige.

IRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Handle business affairs during the morning, but in the afternoon, bring in data you need from inside.

BRA: (September 22 to October 21) Discuss with your plan and then get into the future of a social nature, but later today, be into that world.

ORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You can enjoy any career activities during the morning, but in the afternoon, bring in fine benefits from the night arrangements with your associates.

AGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is morning making appointments of a later nature, but later today, be into that world.

APRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) Plan for the morning, but reserve this day for simple and wholehearted efforts.

QUARUS: (January 22 to February 21) Get busy during the morning, but in the afternoon, bring in data you need from inside.

SCES: (February 22 to March 21) Plan for the morning, but reserve this day for simple and wholehearted efforts.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Financial Markets

In cooperation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.68	5.75	5.81
Swiss Franc	6.58	6.68	6.81	7.06
Deutsche Mark	4.37	4.37	4.37	4.37
Swiss Franc	2.87	2.87	2.87	2.87
French Franc	2.87	2.87	2.87	2.87
Japanese Yen	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.81

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	0.7150	0.7150	0.7150	0.7150
Swiss Franc	1.1065	1.1100	1.1100	1.1100
Deutsche Mark	0.4700	0.4714	0.4714	0.4714
Swiss Franc	0.3755	0.3755	0.3755	0.3755
French Franc	0.1405	0.1412	0.1412	0.1412
Japanese Yen	0.0245	0.0245	0.0245	0.0245
Dutch Guilder	0.6278	0.6278	0.6278	0.6278
Swedish Krona	0.0428	0.0428	0.0428	0.0428
Italian Lira	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028
Belgian Franc	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028

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men and cleave at your career activities today, you have the opportunity to gain more benefits. Show loyalty to loved ones.

(July 22 to August 21) New situations arise which are an opportunity to have greater success today, especially via the Internet.

Set contacts.

(August 22 to September 22) Find a better customer.

All set for Rumman Hill Climb

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Seventy two participants will be testing their driving skills when the country's most popular auto event — the Rumman Hill Climb — begins Friday morning.

The event has attracted the country's top competitors vying for advanced standings in the 1995 Jordan Driver's Open Championship. In addition three top Lebanese competitors and two from the United Arab Emirates are taking part.

Competitors in the two session event will be trying to break the record for the 3 kilometre-long event which was set by His Majesty King Hussein in 1989 in his Mercedes 190 with a time of 2 minutes 02.42 seconds.

Organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), the Rumman Hill Climb has been held since 1956 in the beautiful scenic area 30 kilometres north of Amman, off the Jarash highway, just north of Rumman Village.

Last year's winner and Jordan Driver's Open champion Bashir Bustami will be driving a Ford Sierra Cosworth, so will Marouf Abu Samra who has had a good year winning last month's National Rally and finishing third overall in the Jordan International Rally.

1993 Driver's Open champion Amjad Farrah will be in an Opel Manta 400, Ahmad Al Daoud in a Ford Fiesta XR2i, and Lebanon's Jean Pierre Nasser will be in a Lancia Delta Integrale.

The cars have been divided into seven classes depending on engine capacity and degree of modification from the standard base



His Majesty King Hussein attending one of his favourite sporting events — the Rumman Hill

Climb — in which he still holds the record set in 1989 (File photo)



One of the competitors in last year's Pepsi Rumman Hill Climb on his way up the scenic hill (File photo)

model. Jordanian drivers will face strong competition

from the three Lebanese participants who have the

latest specification rally cars.

List of entrants

Class 5

Name	Car
Faris Juma' (JOR)	Toyota Corolla
Khalil Juma' (JOR)	Toyota Corolla
Amjad Syout (JOR)	Daihatsu Charmant
Mazen Shoman (JOR)	Daihatsu Charmant
Abdul Fattah Malhas (JOR)	Alpha Romeo 33
Rami Yaghmour (JOR)	Nissan Stanza 1.6
Tareq Juma' (JOR)	Nissan Stanza 1.6
Imad Juma' (JOR)	Renault 5 Alpine
Fadi Jad'oun (JOR)	Opel Ascona 1.3
Fakhri Bustami (JOR)	Toyota Corolla Coupe Xi
Faris Bustami (JOR)	Honda Civic CRX
Wajih Shishani (JOR)	Toyota Carina
Mazen Turk (JOR)	Toyota Corolla
Ramzi Sha'aban (JOR)	Opel Ascona 1.6

Ahmad Al Daoud (JOR)	Renault 5 GT Turbo
Ala' Bader (JOR)	Opel Ascona 2.2
Basem Tarzi (JOR)	Datsun 180 B
Khader Murshed (JOR)	BMW 316
Lu'ay Kurdi (JOR)	Daihatsu Charade GTi
Nart Abideh (JOR)	Opel Ascona
Ra'ed Dahshan (JOR)	Daihatsu Charade GTi
Salim Dajani (JOR)	Mercedes 190 2.3
Zaid Asfour (JOR)	Volvo 244
Arslan Arslan (JOR)	Daihatsu Charade GTi
Mohammad Attari (JOR)	Golf GTi
Khatich Chadian (JOR)	Daihatsu Charade GTi
Bishara Qu'zor (JOR)	Renault 5 GT Turbo
Ihab Shourafa (JOR)	Renault 5 GT Turbo

Class 6

Sami Fleifel (JOR)	BMW 320
Ala' Hweiti (JOR)	BMW
Ibrahim Attalah (JOR)	Mercedes 190
Barkev Shadian (JOR)	Mazda RX7
Imad Al Jilani (JOR)	BMW 320
Foad Abu Saoud (JOR)	Opel Ascona 2.0
Kamal Jamous (JOR)	BMW 320
Mahmoud Shalabi (JOR)	BMW 320
Majdi Nashashibi (JOR)	Citroen Volcan
Mohammad Najjar (JOR)	BMW 320
Raed Hamideh (JOR)	BMW 320i
Sultan Abu Na'neh (JOR)	Toyota Corolla 1.6 Si
Sultan Shobaki (JOR)	Toyota Corolla XL
Taimour Tash (JOR)	Mercedes 200
Saleh Baba (JOR)	BMW 323

Bashir Bustami (JOR)	Ford Sierra Cosworth
Naser Bustami (JOR)	Ford Sierra Cosworth
Adel Metni (LEB)	BMW M3
Marouf Abu Samra (JOR)	Ford Sierra Cosworth
Reimon Fleifel (JOR)	Mazda 323 Turbo 4x4

Class 7 and 8

Imad Juma' (JOR)	Opel Ascona 2000
Mohammad Juma' (JOR)	Opel Ascona 2000
Amjad Farrah (JOR)	Toyota Corolla GT
Tareq Tab' (JOR)	Renault 17
Hasan Tab' (JOR)	Renault 17
Amjad Farrah (JOR)	Opel Manta 400

Class 3 and 4

Fadi Diyab (JOR)	Chevrolet Camaro
Othman Nashashibi (JOR)	Porsche 911
Asem Aref (JOR)	Ford Fiesta XR2i
Zeid Abu Zeid (JOR)	Ford Fiesta XR2i
Ahmad Al Daoud (JOR)	Ford Fiesta XR2i
Tony Khlassy (JOR)	Austin Mini 1275 GT
Mustafa Qirm (JOR)	Ford Fiesta XR2i
Raed Abu Khader (JOR)	Ford Fiesta XR2i
Fa'eq Sayegh (JOR)	Ford Fiesta XR2i

Michel Saleh (UAE)	Toyota Celica GT 4
Rashid Ben Ghurab (UAE)	Toyota Celica GT 4
Faris Bustami (JOR)	Toyota Celica GT4
Jean Pierre Nasrallah (LEB)	Lancia Delta Integrale
Yanai Qomok (JOR)	Nissan 210 S
Yanai Qomok (JOR)	Lancia Delta Integrale
Hassan Abu Samra (JOR)	Daihatsu Charmant S
Ma'rouf Abu Samra (JOR)	Daihatsu Charmant S
Nabil Karam (LEB)	Subaru Impreza

Class 9

Michel Saleh (UAE)	Toyota Celica GT 4
Rashid Ben Ghurab (UAE)	Toyota Celica GT 4
Faris Bustami (JOR)	Toyota Celica GT4
Jean Pierre Nasrallah (LEB)	Lancia Delta Integrale
Yanai Qomok (JOR)	Nissan 210 S
Yanai Qomok (JOR)	Lancia Delta Integrale
Hassan Abu Samra (JOR)	Daihatsu Charmant S
Ma'rouf Abu Samra (JOR)	Daihatsu Charmant S
Nabil Karam (LEB)	Subaru Impreza

All-Africa Games fighting funding problems

HARARE (R) — With barely a month to go before Zimbabwe hosts the All-Africa Games, the continent's premier sporting event, organisers are battling to overcome severe funding problems.

Officials are publicly optimistic that preparations will be complete before 6,000 competitors and officials

from 42 African countries arrive, but in private many are dismayed at government delays in providing cash.

Organising committee chairman Tommy Sithole told a news conference on Tuesday night that despite "some problems" the games would go ahead on time. "The truth is that there has

not been enough money allocated by government. When we started preparing we knew that there was not going to be enough money coming," he said.

The committee says President Robert Mugabe's cash-strapped government has spent over \$23.3 million on facilities and an unspecified

amount on preparations. In Zimbabwe's 1995/96 national budget announced last month, the government set aside \$6 million for the national sports commission, tasked with overseeing the September 13-23 games.

But the vote has still to go through parliamentary procedures before the money is handed over.

China hits back at calls for Olympic ban

BELING (AFP) — China on Wednesday hit back at calls that it's swimmers be banned from next year's Olympic Games because of drug suspicion.

"People most not forget the efforts made by the Chinese Swimming Federation to combat drug taking," said an official for the Chinese State Sports Commission.

China's swimmers have been under a drug cloud since seven of them — including two world champions — tested positive at last year's Asian Games in Hiroshima. China was banned from last week's Pan Pacific swimming championships in Atlanta, next year's Olympic hosts, because of the drug scandal.

And at the championships, swimmers from Australia, United States, New Zealand and Canada, backed by the World Swimming Coaches Association, called for the Chinese to be kept out of the Atlanta Games. They demanded a strict anti-doping programme be adopted.

But the commission official said China was prepared to cooperate with any action to wipe out drug taking.

He reaffirmed the official stance that "the drug problems in Chinese sport in recent months were the result of individual acts, to generalise would be to condemn the majority of innocent swimmers."

Orthodoxi upset Jazireh 66-62 in U-22 basketball championship

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Ahli await Thursday's match against Al Jazireh to secure their place atop the standings in the Under-22 basketball championship playoffs.

The only unbeaten team so far, Al Ahli proved they are the title favourites after 87-64 and 97-95 wins over Al Orthodoxi and Al Yarmouk. Meanwhile, titleholders Al Jazireh suffered a setback Tuesday evening when they lost 66-62 to Al Orthodoxi. The latter had missed last year's championship and will next face Al Yarmouk in an easy match. The second round of the playoffs begin Sunday.

Ashraf Samara, playing his first season for Al Orthodoxi after transferring from lowly Al Abbasi, led his new team to victory over Al Jazireh whose players seemed all a loss and hardly displayed their better-known form.

Al Orthodoxi had the upper hand and were the better team throughout the close match leading 22-19 before Jazireh's Ma'an Odeh tied the score at 24-24. The first half ended 28-28.

Al Jazireh applied a full court press defence at the beginning of the second half as Ghaith Ennabi, Naser Alawneh, and Yousef Abu Baker scored while Odeh secured rebounding to lead 37-

33. But Al Orthodoxi seemed determined not to let the match slip out of their hands as they scored by Mahmoud Sha'ban, Ihab Msih and Samara to tie the game 42-42.

Ennabi and Alawneh gave their team the lead 46-42 but Al Orthodoxi took control from that point on with Samara rebounding and converting almost all free throws while Jazireh's players had inaccurate shots and Alawneh missed half a dozen free throw that could have significantly altered the result.

Al Orthodoxi's Nasser Bassan managed to hamper his opponents with many fouls and together with Samara maintained their team's lead as Jazireh's coach enlisted the efforts of bench players while the team's key stars Abu Baker, Ennabi and Munther Muheisen sat out the match which ended with Al Orthodoxi win 66-62.

Teams eliminated in the

first round of the tournament were Al Jeel, Al Jallil, Al Fubeis, Al Watani, Gazzet, Hashem, Al Ashrafieh, Abu Nusair, Al Hussein.

Last year, Al Jazireh won the title after a 98-94 win over Al Ahli in overtime. Al Ahli were leading 48-39 at half-time. Al Jazireh had won their first leg match 82-66.

The Jordan Basketball Federation hopes the playoff round will give them a good chance to single out the U-22 national team as there is an abundant number of qualified players in this age-group like Riyad Ayyesh, Ramez Hammoudeh, Mohammad Shamali, Zeid Alkhas, Faisal Nsour, Ghaith Ennabi, Yousef Abu Baker, Naser Alawneh, Ma'an Odeh, Ziyad Nabulsi, Nasser Bassam, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Ihab Msih, Mustafa Al Ghoul, Fadi Al Saqqa, Hani Taher and many others.

Today's matches at Al Ahli court

* Yarmouk-Orthodoxi Thurs. 17/8 5 pm.
Alhi-Jazireh Thurs. 17/8 6:30 p.m.

STADNINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Alhi	2	2	—	184	119	4
Jazireh	2	1	1	154	108	3
Orthodoxi	2	1	1	130	149	3
Yarmouk	2	—	2	97	189	2

Seles returns in triumph, Graf upset at Canadian Open

TORONTO (R) — Monica Seles played her happiest 60 minutes of tennis in more than two years on Tuesday, beating American Kimberly Po 6-0 6-3 to celebrate her return to tournament competition at the Canadian Open.

The 21-year-old Seles's comeback from 28 months off the tour after being stabbed at a tournament in Hamburg was a smashing success as she blasted two-handed groundstrokes with pace and precision to outgun the 133rd-ranked Po.

But in another second-round match, her co-number one seed Steffi Graf was upset 3-6 6-2 7-6 (8-6) by South African Amanda Coetzer. It was Graf's first loss in seven tournaments this year and ended a 32-match winning streak for the 26-year-old German.

Seles lapped up the fans' appreciation of her return.

After belting a forehand winner on match point, she shook hands with Po, then ran over to embrace her parents seated in a court-side box. She then walked back out onto the court and spent two minutes waving to spectators, who were on their feet applauding.

"For a long time everything was dark. Now I see the sun again," Seles said.

"I think I played pretty well," she said, "but all I could ever ask for is just to be out there playing again, so it's great."

Even though it took Po 38 minutes to finally win a same — at 6-0 2-40 — the match was fairly competitive, with nine of the 15 games going to deuce. But Seles was able to hold off Po when she closed to 3-4 in the second set.



Steffi Graf

Seles was to go back on court to play 17th-ranked Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat less than 16 hours after beating Po.

"It should be a tough match, so I'll have to be ready," Seles said, contrasting it with her exhibition with Martina Navratilova on July 29. "It's not like when I slept for a day and a half afterward."

Giggling, she added: "I can't do that."

Po said she enjoyed playing before the enthusiastic centre court crowd of 8,206 and noted: "Monica hit deep and with great angles. I thought she played really well."

To a suggestion that Seles was not moving as well as she used to, Po replied: "Maybe

she seemed a little slow a couple of times when I wrongfooted her. But I've only played her once before. Maybe if Steffi played her

The third set was a seesaw affair in which Graf trailed 2-3 but then led 4-3, 40-15 before Coetzer drew level at 4-4. Graf eventually served for the match up 6-5 in the final set.

But at 30-all Coetzer blasted a screaming forehand service return winner, then won the game when Graf netted a backhand.

In the tiebreak, Graf made no unforced forehand errors and doublefaulted to trail 0-3.

Down triple matchpoint at 3-6, he rallied to 6-all but then a lame backhand service return into the net and a

forehand drive into the alley allowed Coetzer to record her first victory in seven matches with Graf.

"This is without a doubt the best win of my career," said Coetzer, who said she has been helped by new coach Gavin Hopper of Australia.

"I just made too many mistakes," said Graf, who was playing her first tournament since winning Wimbledon on July 8.

Graf said she had been able to practise for only nine, or 10 days before the tournament and recently had been unable to train at all for five or six days because of her recurring back problems.

"I can't expect not to practise and get into tournaments and win. That's not something I believe in."

Sampras wins, Courier ousted at RCA tourney

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras held to form winning his second-round match on Tuesday but fifth-seeded Jim Courier was upset by Jerome Golmard of France at the \$1.04 million RCA Championships.

The second-ranked Sampras defeated fellow American Vince Spadea 7-5, 6-4 while the 131st-ranked Golmard beat the 15th-ranked Courier in a tough 6-7 (5-7)

6-4, 7-6 (7-1) battle. "It was very exciting to win a match like this one," said Golmard through an interpreter about his best career victory.

"I got cramps in my thigh at 2-all in the third set. Generally when I get cramps, there is no way I can recover. But this time because it was Jim Courier in front of me. I had the motivation to fight as hard as I could. And it worked."

Courier had a number of chances in the final set to secure a third-round berth.

Serving for the match at 5-3, Courier double-faulted twice, including on game point, to let Golmard back into the match.

At 30-40 on Golmard's serve in the 12th game, Courier had a match point in which he netted a backhand.

Courier never got into the tiebreaker against the left-

handed Golmard, losing the first six points.

"I just played a bad breaker," Courier said. "He didn't have to do anything. I just made mistakes."

Sampras, who visibly faded from the heat to Michael Stich of Germany at last week's ATP championship, said that although it was still humid Tuesday evening, he was in much better shape this week.

<p>CINEMA TEL:634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Meryl Streep with Kevin Bacon & David Strathairn in</p> <p>The River Wild</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL:699238</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>Nabila Obeid & Yousef Sha'aban...in</p> <p>Huda and H.E. the Minister</p> <p>(Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL:677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1"</p> <p>Ninja Turtles 3</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30</p> <p>Adel Imam in</p> <p>Bakht and Adileh</p> <p>Shows: 6, 8:15, 10:45</p> <p>CONCORD "2"</p> <p>SPECIALIST</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 5:30, 11</p>	<p>AMMOON THEATRE TEL:618274 - 618275</p> <p>MUSA HIJAZIN "sumaa" IN</p> <p>Hi Citizen</p> <p>daily at 8:30 pm</p> <p>written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL:675571</p> <p>Presents</p> <p>KABARET</p> <p>Abeer Issa</p> <p>Ghassan Mashini</p> <p>with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein and Issam Al Hanbali</p> <p>The theatre closes on Monday</p> <p>Performances start at 8:20 p.m.</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel:625155</p> <p>AHLAN THEATRE</p> <p>presents</p> <p>(Ahlan Tatbee)</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p>Normalisation</p> <p>Shows start at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman</p>
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Sports

Ferrari sign Schumacher; Alesi moves to Benetton

MARANELLO, Italy (AP) — Famed Italian Formula One team Ferrari issued a terse, three-line news release Wednesday, confirming last week's widely reported signing of Michael Schumacher to a two-year contract.

The 26-year-old German will complete this season with Benetton-Renault and then begin driving for Ferrari in 1996.

Meanwhile, the Benetton team announced in London that it signed Frenchman Jean Alesi for 1996 and 1997 seasons to replace Schumacher, a swap of the teams' top drivers.

Alesi, 31, who was highly touted when he joined Ferrari in 1991 to start his third season in Formula One, has only one Grand Prix victory in 6½ years on the circuit, that coming earlier this year.

Schumacher, who is the defending Formula One champion and holds an 11-point lead over Damon Hill (56-45) in the chase for this year's crown, is in his third season with Benetton.

With the retirement of Alain Prost and the death of Ayrton Senna, Schumacher has inherited the mantle of being Formula One's pre-eminent driver.

Wednesday's announcement by Ferrari officially ended weeks of rumours and speculation about the so-called "deal of the century" — the largest driver's contract in Formula One history.

Published reports said the contract was worth 40 billion lire (\$24 million) a year for Schumacher.

Ferrari did not disclose terms of the contract for the 1996 and 1997 seasons, which team sources said provides an

option for a third year extension.

The transfer of Schumacher to Ferrari and of Alesi to Benetton was expected to spark a shuffle in the driving rosters for Formula One teams next season.

Austrian veteran Gerhard Berger, the other Ferrari driver, was reportedly negotiating with McLaren while Williams-Renault, which recently extended the contract of Damon Hill, announced on Wednesday the signing for young Canadian Jacques Villeneuve as its second driver for 1996.

Villeneuve, Indianapolis 500 champion and current IndyCar points leader, will replace David Coulthard who's likely to join either Benetton or McLaren.

Ferrari sources said Schumacher's transfer to Ferrari was announced following the formal signing at a "secret location" Monday.

However, the news was widely expected after Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of Ferrari's parent company Fiat of Turin, revealed the acquisition was a done deal.

"When you have such a driver as Schumacher, if you don't win it's the team fault," Agnelli said, laying down the challenge for the Ferrari team next season.

Schumacher, who was married two weeks ago, is leaving one of the most successful teams in hopes of reviving the tarnished luster of Ferrari.

The Italian team, which has won more constructors' titles (eight), more races (105), more pole positions (113), and contested more races (546) than any other team in Formula One history,



Michael Schumacher

has won only twice in the last 4½ years.

The signing of Schumacher was known to be part of broad commercial plan by Ferrari, including agreements which new commercial sponsors likely to finance most of the deal with the German driver.

Both Ferrari and Benetton said their complete driver lineup for the next season will be announced at a later date.

British driver Johnny Herbert, Benetton-Renault's No. 2 this season, may be also leaving the Italian-British team.

Flavio Briatore, the Italian manager of Benetton, said the combination of "Jean's outstanding talent and our team's unique expertise will provide a new challenge for everybody at Benetton formula next year."

He added he wished Schumacher all the best with his new team.

Women's Basketball Championship Ahli face Jazireh in opening match

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — It is once again time for the annual women's basketball championship, and once more competition has again narrowed down to three teams.

However, a different atmosphere surrounds the competition this year.

The game is on a high note at the moment after the women's national team's first participation in the recently concluded Asian Championship which was held July 23-30 in Shizuoka, Japan.

This was a first for Arab and Jordanian basketball, and gave the Kingdom's players an incentive to play after the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) finally regrouped the national team following a 12-year absence.

With limited and insufficient preparation, Jordan came in fifth in Level B and the team's top scorer and rebounder Jumana Sali was chosen among the top five players.

The women's game needed the national team spirit. Players who were obstinate opponents playing only for their respective clubs over the past years have now become good friends and are more than ready to join hands to further improve the national team and represent the Kingdom in upcoming regional and international competitions.

However, that will be put on hold for the coming three weeks until after the women's 1995 championship is concluded.

The JBF has decided to hold the event in three rounds, giving the teams a chance to play more matches. Al Jazireh meet Al Ahli in the opening match at Al Ahli's court at 6 p.m. Friday. The event will conclude Aug. 31.

Competition is expected to be close with titleholders Al Orthodoxy aiming to retain their title while Al Jazireh will play with an incomplete lineup with five key players missing the competition for a host of reasons. Al Ahli who stayed out of the competition last season have been preparing for a strong comeback after their third place finish in 1993.

In fact the number of competing teams has never gone above four in the past five years.

With no competitions held between 1983 and 1988, Orthodoxy, Ahli and Homentmen started women's basketball's latest comeback in 1989 as Orthodoxy kept a powerful grip on the title. After two seasons Al Jazireh entered the competition finishing fourth behind the three aforementioned teams in 1991. Al Jazireh then took third place from Homentmen in 1992 and clinched the trophy by scoring a major upset of Al Orthodoxy in 1993 as Al Ahli fell back to

third and Abu Nusair came in fourth with Homentmen missing the competition. Al Orthodoxy regained the crown last year in an incomplete championship when Al Jazireh abruptly pulled out of the competition citing differences with the JBF while the only other competing team was Abu Nusair, a lowly newcomer. Homentmen and Al Ahli stayed out of the competition with an incomplete lineup, while Al Watani registered a team for the first time but did not take part.

"We are eager to play, despite missing five key players," Jazireh's head coach Fadi Sabbah told the Jordan Times. "However, this will be a good chance for our bench and younger players," he added.

Al Jazireh will be missing two key starters: Suhair Makusi, who suffered an aggravated knee injury in Japan and Jumana Sali who might only play two matches before she leaves for the U.S. to continue her studies. Teammates Rana Hussein, Tamara Al Khadra, Dima Shadi and Maryam Ta'ani are abroad. The former titleholders are thus left with players Hala Muheisen, Tala Al Mauge and Rania Dajani together with a group of younger players.

Al Orthodoxy have Dima and Ghadad Qandah teaming up with Hind Ghouri and Zina Farah. Veteran Shireen Abu Khader is now back on the team and Jihan Abdulnour might also join her teammates if she takes leave from her work in Beirut.

Al Orthodoxy's coach, Amer Taleb, could not be reached for comment.

Al Ahli have a lineup of relatively inexperienced players after a transitional period in the past years when many of their top players quit the game. Al Ahli also missed the competition last year, but now have a group of eager players like Andeera Kaseh, Sirsa Naghaway, Teryana Qardan, Zein Sha'sha and others.

"This is just a starting point for our newly-regrouped team," said Al Ahli's coach Ghath Al Najjar. "Most of our players are comparatively young and will be playing their first championship."

Like other teams, Najjar said his team lacked match experience, because there were no other teams to play against. "The three participating teams could only play against their boy's teams. However I am glad that the JBF decided to have a three-round competition. It is very beneficial."

Schedule of first round (all at Ahli court)		
Jazireh-Ahli	Fri. 18/8 6 p.m.	
Orthodoxy-Ahli	Sat. 19/8 6 p.m.	
Jazireh-Orthodoxy	Mon. 21/8 6 p.m.	

Tyson tries to put years of turmoil behind him

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson says his fight with Peter McNeeley on Saturday will prove he is the same fighter he was before he spent three years in prison. But he vows he will never be the same man.

Tyson was convicted of raping beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington on February 10, 1992. It was the culmination of years of personal turmoil that started before he was a teenager and spiraled as he became the youngest world heavyweight champion in history.

Tyson was just 20 when he won the World Boxing Association title on points from James "Bonecrusher" Smith on March 7, 1987, then became undisputed champion on August 1 of that year by winning the International Boxing Federation title from Tony Tucker on points.

But his reign was studded with lurid incidents — a street brawl with heavyweight Mitch Green, problems with women, a car park attendant who accused Tyson of striking him.

His stormy marriage to actress Robin Givens gave the tabloids more fodder. They were divorced in June 1989, and seven months later the once invincible "Iron Mike" was knocked out by James "Buster" Douglas in the 10th round in Tokyo.

Tyson has admitted his lifestyle had interfered with his boxing. "I knew I could beat those guys," he said in one interview. "I wasn't interested. I just wanted to have fun back then. I had been fighting for a long time. I never had time to myself."

But the man who once prided himself on being "wild" now speaks of being "humble." He also speaks of trust, betrayal and self-reliance.

"You have to make your own decisions. You have to

trust in your decisions," Tyson said. "From now on I am going to make my own mistakes and go with my own judgment."

"That's how come I learned to be humble, so that I don't talk about nobody. I don't get arrogant about nobody. I have the same malice in my heart as far as the fight game is concerned, but outside the ring, I won't say anything a dignified man won't say."

Tyson credits his prison conversion to Islam with the change.

But some observers say Tyson's decision to stick with controversial promoter Don King means Tyson will find himself a mere performer in the same old.

King has kept a low profile since Tyson was freed, but there's no doubt that he has influence with Rory Halloway and John Horne, the childhood friends Tyson named as his co-managers.

"Mike lets us do our jobs and he does his job," Horne said. "Rory, myself and Mike make the decisions, but we respect Don Kong. We use his knowledge and expertise."

Even before his first fight, Tyson was embroiled in controversy over his second. The bout against an as-yet unnamed opponent was scheduled for November 4 — the same date announced by heavyweight rivals Evander Holyfield and Riddick Bowe.

And the controversy over Tyson's conviction and imprisonment will not go away.

The fighter had a civil suit by Washington settled out of court for an undisclosed sum, but he continues to maintain his innocence.

His admirers paint him as a victim, but a rally in Harlem to honour Tyson erupted in acrimony last month when critics suggested Tyson did not deserve any accolades, much less the millions of dol-

lars he will earn upon his return to the ring.

Critics urge Tyson to apologise to Washington and speak out about violence against women.

"I don't think there is ever going to be an apology," said fight commentator Ferdie Pacheco. "Mike Tyson still thinks he was wrongly imprisoned."

Pacheco contrasted Tyson's return to that of Muhammad Ali, who was banned from boxing for three years for refusing to fight in Vietnam.

"The difference is, Ali came back a hero," Pacheco said. "Mike has lost his public and has to win it back. We'll see what happens. It's an on-going soap-opera drama."

While Tyson is happy to talk about his new maturity and his new faith, he brushes off all references to Washington, and tries to turn the questions back to McNeeley.

Johnson satisfied with World Championships

GOTEBORG (AP) — Carl Lewis, who didn't manage to compete at the fifth world championships, thought they were boring.

Michael Johnson, who did and went home with three gold medals and the unofficial title of world's best track athlete, didn't agree.

"It was a great week. I'll never forget it," said the athlete who went close to breaking two world records and became the first man to win both the 200 and 400 titles at a major international championship.

After running the fourth leg of the 1600 relay, Johnson wound up with more gold medals than any other athlete from the fifth worlds. He now totals six, four fewer than Lewis, who failed to compete in the long jump or relay because of injury.

There were other athletes who probably would disagree with Lewis.

Triple jumper Jonathan Edwards broke the world re-

cord twice with back-to-back leaps, sprinter Gwen Torrence crossed the line first in three races but was disqualified in one and her rival, Merlene Ottey, went home with three more medals to take her total to 13, three more than Lewis.

Kim Batten and Tonja Buford were inside Sally Gunnell's world record for the 400 metres hurdles, only .01 separating the two Americans as they dipped for the line.

Triple jumper Inessa Kravets added .41 centimetres to the world record and Cuban long jumper Ivan Pedroso, who's waiting to hear if his leap of 8.96 is ratified to beat Mike Powell's world mark, took away the American's world title.

Because he was injured, Lewis didn't get the chance to contribute to the American team's total of 12 golds two silvers and five bronze medals. No other nation managed to get more than two golds.

Sergei Bubka maintained his sweep of titles in the pole vault, taking it to five, and four athletes, decathlete Dan O'Brien, steeplechaser Moses Kiptanui, discus thrower Lars Riedel and

1,500-meter runner Nouredine Morceli, all won for the third time in a row.

In Sunday's final day of competition, the U.S. swept both women's relays.

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& TAYANAN HURSE

WHAT'S THE ODDS?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 6 4
♥ A 8 6
♦ A 10 8 4 2
♣ K Q 10 8 2

EAST
♠ J 7 5 4 3
♥ K 2
♦ Q J 10 2
♣ Q J 9

SOUTH
♠ A 8
♥ A J 10 8 7 5
♦ K 4
♣ K 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
For a mathematical whiz, choosing the percentage line in any contract should be a snap. But the best we mere mortals can do is make sure we uncover all the possibilities and judge which is the right way to tackle the hand.

North-South used a cue-bidding sequence to reach an excellent slam. South's bid of five no trump was the Grand Slam Furee, requesting partner to bid seven hearts with two of the three top honors. North respectfully declined.

West led the king of spades and at first glance it might seem that, since there was virtually a sure club loser on the hand, the fate of the contract depended on a successful trump finesse. That's strictly an even-money proposition, unsatisfactory odds for a slam contract.

There is another line. Declarer can cash the ace of hearts and, if both defenders follow but the king doesn't drop, strip spades and diamonds from both hands, then cash the ace and king of clubs before exiting with a trump. If the defender who wins the trump has no more clubs, any return will allow declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the club from hand.

Chances of dropping a singleton king when holding a combined 10 cards in the suit are 26 percent and a specific hand having a doubleton in another suit missing few cards is 34 percent, making that the better line. If numbers aren't your forte, look at the problem another way: two reasonable possibilities are usually better than one. And if you need a clincher, making a slam on a finesse will never appear in a newspaper column, while a strip and endplay might!

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"The right meat for the right dish."

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Finest Quality Meat

rehand drive into the sk
owed Coetzer to rear
r first victory in se
atches with Graf.
"This is without a dou
e best win of my career
Coetzer, who said s
e been helped by as
ach Gavin Hopper of e
alia.
"I just made too m
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as playing her first rou
ent since winning Wim
on July 8.
Graf said she had le
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10 days before the rou
ent and recently had b
able to train at all for
six days because of c
curring back problems.
"I can't expect not to p
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tourney
ended Golmard, losing
st six points.
"I just played a bad he
" Courier said. "He di
ve to do anything. I f
ade mistakes."

Sampras, who visibly b
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ek's ATP champion
id that although it was
mid Tuesday evening
is in much better shape
ek.

sham's Tel: 825155
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Welcome
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325155 Amman

Mideast Development Bank to be launched at Amman summit

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The upcoming Amman economic summit will ratify the establishment of the controversial Middle East Development Bank, one of four institutional bodies to be launched next October in support of the concept of "public-private partnership" endorsed last year at the inaugural economic parley in Casablanca.

This was confirmed in an interview with Susan Levine, co-leader of the U.S. delegation to the multinational task force fine-tuning the summit's agenda. "We had a sufficient number of countries supporting the bank (at our recent meeting in Moscow) that we are going to be able to announce it in Amman."

She added matter-of-factly, "We had some real breakthrough; we are no longer evaluating several proposals, we are now evaluating one proposal."

Her reference was to proposals voiced by some early detractors of the bank concept in Europe and among some Gulf Arab states. With regard to the latter, she explained that the Gulf states have been coming to the task force meetings but "some may be taking a wait-and-see attitude to see what happens with the whole (Mideast) peace process."

She stressed, "No one is saying that they are absolutely not going to join."

The three-day Amman summit will be opened by King Hussein on Oct. 29 and promises to be a smaller event than its Casablanca predecessor and more focused on key sectors. Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin are the official co-sponsors of the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit conference, an element of the Middle East peace process aimed at encouraging regional economic cooperation and development.

Organised by the World Economic Forum of Switzerland, the summit's plenary sessions will have four major themes: trade and industry, infrastructure, investment and finance, and the economic environment.

About 150 American companies are expected to attend the conference, which will include project briefings, workshops and roundtables.

In response to criticism of the largely political meeting in Casablanca last year, the organisers are hoping these sessions will provide an informal and productive atmosphere for business people and government officials to pursue specific business opportunities and enter into joint ventures.

Speaking on a recent tele-

vision programme, Joan Spero, undersecretary of State for Business, Economic and Agriculture Affairs, spelled out the steps the private and the public sectors have to undertake if their new partnership is to flourish: "The private sector must provide the entrepreneurial talent, investment capital, and technical expertise for development. The public sector must improve the economic environment by liberalising trade policies, reducing regulation, privatising industry, and improving the investment climate."

The Middle East Development Bank is one of the four institutional bodies to be officially inaugurated at the Amman Summit. All feature regional government and private sector participation. The other three are:

— A Regional Business Council, which will be a private, non-profit association that is intended to promote and facilitate regional trade and investment;

— A Regional Tourism Board, which will focus on developing tourism and marketing regional tourism opportunities;

— An Executive Secretariat, which will work to advance the public-private partnership by promoting contacts and fostering private sector investment in the re-

gion. The secretariat was established in Morocco shortly after the Casablanca meeting.

The development bank, proposed originally by Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians, is expected to have three primary points of focus, according to Levine. These are:

— A regional infrastructure in which the bank would play a co-financing role with other existing financial institutions;

— A private sector mandate to help develop the private sector in the region;

— A consultative body which will discuss economic and trade policies.

The capital of the bank, she continued, will be \$5 billion with a paid-in capital of 25 per cent or \$1.25 billion. To underline its magnitude, she cited the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which has a paid-in capital of \$10 billion but has many more countries to cover in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics.

Ms. Levine emphasised that the bank, as in the European case, will not have a soft-loan window, although provisions will be made for the use of voluntary trust

(Continued on page 3)



REFUGEE FLOW: Families expelled from Serb-held northern Bosnia cross the River Sava in small boats into Croatia. Several hundred people were expelled on Tuesday and Wednesday and many more expected to be expelled in an ethnic cleansing campaign waged by the Serbs (AFP photo)

Opposition fears U.S. backing defector to replace Saddam

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraqi opposition groups expressed fears that Washington would try to replace President Saddam Hussein with his right-hand man who defected last week, destroying their hopes of radical change.

Arab and Kurdish exiled opposition members warned that Hussein Kamel Hassan, President Saddam's son-in-law former industry minister who defected to Jordan on Aug. 8, would also be a ruthless and undemocratic leader.

These groups oppose meeting him and Gen. Hassan has made no overture toward them.

"The problem with the United States is that it hopes to replace Saddam with someone from his entourage, someone from inside the regime who could control things," Hamid Bayati, a spokesman for the Shiite Muslim opposition, said.

"Someone who meets these qualifications would obviously be a Sunni Arab military man," Mr. Bayati, a representative in London for

the Iraqi-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), told AFP.

"We believe that the nature of the regime would not change if Hussein Kamel were in power," he added.

Mr. Bayati said Gen. Hassan had not contacted the opposition, but he had made "contacts with the Saudis whom he has given important information." He did not elaborate.

SCIRI, meanwhile, issued a statement saying: "Meeting Hussein Kamel or cooperating with him is out of the question, because this character is among those who have committed massacres against the Iraqi people."

Gen. Hassan announced in Amman last Saturday that he planned to topple Saddam Hussein.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), an umbrella group for the opposition, said his defection "offers the opposition and the Iraqi people new opportunities to work together to topple the dictator Saddam Hussein."

But a spokesman for the INC, Mohammad Abdul Jabbar, said that "in no way means the INC is ready to cooperate with Hussein Kamel."

An INC member who did not want to be named said: "The democratic and Islamic opposition fears there is a U.S. scenario to overthrow Saddam Hussein and replace him with someone from the same government."

"Hussein Kamel is the ideal solution for the Americans because they want a change from within the regime," the official said.

"We believe it will be a change in people and not in the nature of the regime," he said. "It won't be Hussein Kamel who will set up a democratic government in Baghdad."

Since the end of the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation the opposition — which includes Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites — has tried to win Western backing to govern Iraq after President Saddam's overthrow.

House discusses Khalifeh case and law on telecommunications

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The minister of interior, Salameh Hamad, told Parliament yesterday that the case of the Khalifeh brothers, who were shot by police in "self-defence" last June, was now in the hands of the judicial authorities, and the prosecutor general could provide information to deputies upon request.

The statement came at a Parliament session during which the House continued discussions on a draft law on telecommunications. So far, the House has endorsed 87 of the 91 articles in the draft law.

The House also referred a draft law on environment to the Judiciary Committee after it was returned by the Upper House (Senate) for consideration of amendments introduced by the Senate.

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According to Mr. Hamad, when policemen went to arrest the two brothers upon a court order, they were taken back by shooting from within the apartment and had to return fire. As a result Mahmoud was killed, his brother Bashar was injured and one policeman was injured.

Bashar was treated at Al Hussein Medical Centre and is currently under arrest, pending trial, according to officials.

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Sifi urges support for presidential poll

PARIS (R) — Algeria's Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi has said that any failure to hold presidential elections this year would worsen the country's civil strife and threaten its unity.

"Because Algeria is going through difficult times, it can not run the risk of a (poll) failure which will only increase our people's sufferings and call into question (Algeria's) unity and independence," Mr. Sifi told the governors of the country's 48 regions who are meeting to plot the poll organisation.

"We have a historical mission which we must carry... in spite of the obstacles... coming either from political aspects and rumours or various sabotages," Mr. Sifi, who heads a government poll task force, said in his speech which was carried by the state media.

The country's opposition groups, including Muslim militants fighting the security forces, have rejected President Liamine Zeroual's call for presidential elections before the end of the year.

The opposition urged instead the army-backed authorities to resume negotiations with the fundamentalists leaders to stop the violence.

There has been an upsurge of violence in recent weeks with a spate of car bombs attacks by the Muslim rebels across the country after the failure of an earlier round of talks between the government and Islamist leaders.

Mr. Sifi, who called the two-day meeting with the local officials to assess the poll preparations, urged Algerians to take part in the upcoming election, saying the timing was "significant."

"We say to the citizens, do fulfil your election duty and voice your goodwill. We say to the politicians: Take over your responsibilities towards the country and history," he said.

'Israelis killed Arab PoWs in 1967 war'

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a new revelation about prisoner killings, an Israeli army soldier said Wednesday that he witnessed two Israeli army cooks stab to death three Egyptian prisoners of war (PoWs) in the 1967 Middle East war.

The veteran, author and former parliament member Michael Bar-Zohar, spoke out on Israel Radio about the killings a day after Egypt asked Israel to investigate claims by a retired Israeli general that he and another officer shot dead 49 Egyptian PoWs in the 1956 Mideast war.

Mr. Bar-Zohar, a former legislator in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, said the killings took place in the Sinai peninsula in June 1967.

"I saw suddenly a gathering of soldiers near a barbed wire fence. I went there and saw with my own eyes... two cooks with knives in broad daylight. They simply slaughtered three prisoners," Mr. Bar-Zohar said.

"This incident has haunted me for a long time. I saw this murder and lots of soldiers stood around me and no one lifted a finger."

Mr. Bar-Zohar said he took the cooks to the tent of the battalion commander, and that the two were arrested. He did not say what happened to the cooks.

Mr. Bar-Zohar said he kept quiet about the killings of the three PoWs he witnessed because he feared Arab troops would retaliate in kind.

Israeli military historian Meir Pail said he knew of several cases in which officers or enlisted men killed Arab PoWs or civilians.

He said the offenders were sentenced secretly by military courts, but that the military censor barred publication of such cases until recently.

"There used to be a policy of not publishing this. The

Headless bodies found

Seven decapitated bodies were found in an Islamic fundamentalist stronghold in western Algeria in the latest of a string of massacres targeting civilians, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

A group of around 20 armed militants stormed the village of Zeddine on Sunday and abducted seven people, the daily Al Watan said. The attackers slit the captives' throats and then beheaded them, it added.

Zeddine is near the town of Rouina, a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalist activity.

Al Watan also reported that police defused three car bombs Sunday and Monday in Algiers. They were found outside a cemetery, a local police station and outside a building in a working class neighbourhood. Two car-bomb blasts last week in Algiers left 18 people injured.

The Algerian press last week also reported a series of gun attacks targeting civilians, which it blamed on Muslim extremists fighting the military-backed government in Algiers.

In one incident, assailants with machine-pistols killed a family of five people in Bouinain, 30 kilometres south of Algiers, after one of them refused to collaborate with the fundamentalists.

feeling over Jordan's sympathy in 1990 for the Iraqi army that occupied this emirate runs much deeper here, and Kuwait will not necessarily follow Saudi Arabia's lead.

And even though Kuwaiti officials have started to exchange diplomatic pleasantries with their Jordanian counterparts, they have a trenchant Kuwaiti public opinion to contend with.

"The situation with the Saudis is not the same. The level of feeling among the Saudis (about Jordan) is nothing like it is here," a senior Kuwaiti government official said.

Kuwait's ties with Jordan have been in deep freeze since 1990. Kuwaitis have

But Sheikh Sabah sees ties with Jordan developing

vivid memories of widespread popular support for Iraq in Jordanian streets and newspapers.

Hundreds of thousands of Jordanians, many of them of Palestinian origin and long-term residents, fled Kuwait during the occupation or were forced to leave amid Kuwaiti hostility after the 1991 liberation. They have not been allowed to return.

Kuwait withdrew its ambassador from Amman, and although diplomatic ties were not severed direct flights between the two states were not resumed. Jordan's embassy here remains closed.

"To destroy is easy. To rebuild is difficult," said

Jassem Al Sager, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs committee.

"Jordan is trying hard to open a new page. And Kuwait does not want to close the door on reconciliation. But Kuwait, out of respect for public feeling, has said 'no, not quite yet.'"

He said a resumption of Jordanian diplomatic representation in Kuwait still appeared a long way off, although a non-diplomatic presence might be reinstated shortly.

Efforts were stepped up to patch up ties after last week's Iraqi defections.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah con-

House discusses Khalifeh case and law on telecommunications

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Fly me to Cuba, says man armed with vodka bottle

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A man carrying a vodka bottle which he said was a petrol bomb tried to hijack a South African domestic flight to Cuba, airline official said Wednesday.

Johan Crouse, chairman of Phoenix Airways, told a new conference after the abortive mid-air hijack attempt Tuesday night. Police said a 31-year-old white South African man was in custody after having been overpowered by cabin crew once the Boeing 772, on a flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg, had returned to Cape Town.

Mr. Crouse said the man carrying a paper bag with a bottle inside entered the cockpit shortly after take-off and demanded the plane, carrying 97 passengers and seven crew, divert to Cuba.

The man said the bag contained a petrol bomb. "It was explained to him that you need fuel and maps to fly to Cuba, so the plane would have to return to Cape Town. He was unhappy but he agreed," Mr. Crouse said. "He said that if his instructions were not carried out he would have no hesitation in using the bomb..."

"However when the hijacker said he wanted to smoke, the crew realised it was safe and the flight engineer got hold of the bag and the hijacker was overpowered."

British shoppers set to shed pounds

LONDON (AFP) — British supermarkets started readying shoppers Tuesday for an imminent transformation in the way goods are priced and packaged according to weight, as old imperial measurements prepare to go metric. Supermarkets and chains put up large posters explaining an EU ruling under which from Oct. 1 all prepacked food products will no longer be priced in terms of pounds and ounces but kilograms and grammes.

For a first period, the imperial measurements will remain in small figures beneath their metric equivalents to help consumers get used to the new pricing mechanism. All outlets failing to observe the EU ruling will be fined up to £5,000 (\$7,500).

U.S. to pay white supremacist \$3.1 million in damages

WASHINGTON (AFP) — White supremacist Randy Weaver will receive \$3.1 million in damages from the government in connection with the killing of his wife and son during a standoff with U.S. federal agents in 1992. The government's actions in Ruby Ridge, Idaho during the siege, which began with an attempt to serve Mr. Weaver with an arrest warrant, led to the demolition of one top-ranking FBI agent, who was suspended along with four other agents.

Federal prosecutors are conducting a criminal investigation to determine if FBI officials tried to cover up their role in giving the shoot-to-kill orders. Mr. Weaver was linked to at least one white supremacist group and the violent end to his standoff with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) became